Anime • Videogames • Manga

# Genki Life Magazine

15

春 2014

Spring

Mar 20-June 19

## Anime Matsuri

World Cosplay Summit Eastern Qualifier

Madoka Magica: Rebellion

Kyōkai no Kanata

Manga Inside!

## Also:

Seiyūs of Winter 2014

Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance

Genshiken: Nidaime

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**Issue 15, Spring • March 20 - June 19, 2014**

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# Editor's Note

The past couple months were pretty good for the winter season. At the beginning of January was Animé Los Angeles. As a medium sized con, it's still the best one to attend in Southern California in the winter. For the first time in its history, Animé Los Angeles was comepletely sold out! There were no badge sales at the door.

A couple days after ALA, *Neon Genesis Evangelion 3.33* was playing in select theaters. For some reason, I thought it was going to be a couple weeks after. I did find out at ALA by talking to people that it was now actually playing. A theater near Temecula had a showing, so we went. At the theater, I met up with a couple EVA cosplayers I've met at ALA. Nice!

Another anime movie that was going to be showed was *Wolf Children*. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in the movie for the theater by University of California Riverside to keep it. It was cancelled.

Over the weekend of March 14th weekend, we made a showing at Anime Matsuri in Houston, Texas. Read about our experiences at Anime Matsuri.

- Ed Gomez

Graphic Designer
Publisher-Genki Life Magazine, President–GIE

*GLM masot by Jennifer Tourtilloitt*

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Genshiken of the Inland Empire


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We're always looking for contributors to this magazine in the fields of writing, reporting, reviewing, photography and graphic design. If you would like to contribute to this magazine, please e-mail me at:
**glm@studioartmix.com**
or Facebook:
**www.facebook.com/GenkiLifeMag**

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PUELLA MAGI MADOKA MAGICA THE MOVIE
劇場版
魔法少女まどか☆マギカ
-Rebellion-

# Gekijōban Mahō Shōjo Madoka Magica Hangyaku no Monogatari

There's no escaping the fact that the *Madoka Magica* franchise is currently explosive. And with it comes the pressure on the creators to push out more content for the fans. After two films that covered the original series with many improvements and new footage, the first truly new piece of *Madoka Magica* canon has arrived in the 3rd film, titled "Rebellion."

Before I review the film, I will mention that *Rebellion* is not intended to be viewed without prior knowledge of the original series—it is required viewing to understand the plot of *Rebellion*, as nearly the entire story and its characters are reflections and references to the original story.

With that out of the way, I'm sure most people reading this are quite familiar with *Madoka Magica*, a magical girl anime that turned the genre on its head with a macabre and unexpected dark side. It won a lot of fans over, and it's understandable why. It also wrapped itself up rather nicely, which compiles onto the caution that must be taken when attempting to continue a story that set high expectations and standards.

And that leads me to the story of *Rebellion*. At the ending of *Rebellion*, I had this deep feeling in my gut that the creators of this film were pressured to make sure that post-*Rebellion* there would be potential to add even more to the *Madoka Magica* timeline in order to milk more out of the franchise—because the premise of this film started out rather promising, and ended somewhat weak and half-baked, drawing reference from the original series ending, but coming off as an uninspired far cry from its predecessor. And indeed, [Gen] Urobuchi's original ending for this film was scrapped for something less neatly wrapped. For the sake of not revealing major spoilers, I will say only these few things: that the story focuses mainly on Homura, and the setting deliberately fools the audience for a good portion of the film in order to tell this story.

To compound on this, the pacing of the plot is very stunted, and there is a lot of dialogue as the story goes on in order to explain the layers of events that are occurring. It is easy to get lost somewhere along the way, so it is important to pay careful attention to all of it. It doesn't help that a lot of this dialogue is going on during extremely visually focused segments of the film—which, while beautiful, are excessive, drawn-out, and can be distracting from the story.

At the end, I feel that the character of Homura has been cheapened. It is a bitter pill to swallow for one of Madoka's most beloved characters, and her actions at the end become almost meaningless that one has to wonder if the sacrifice that was made to her integrity in order to allow room for more sequels was worth it when you have to betray, and in some cases deeply upset your fans in order to achieve this.

I will acknowledge that many feel this way because they are deeply connected to her character and her story. How-

**Gekijōban Mahō Shōjo Madoka Magica [Shinpen] Hangyaku no Monogatari (Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie [New]: The Rebellion Story)**
**劇場版 魔法少女まどか☆マギカ［新編］叛逆の物語**
Movie • October 26, 2013
Shaft • Aniplex

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puella_Magi_Madoka_Magica:_The_Movie
www.madoka-magica.com

**Director:** Shinbo, Akiyuki
Miyamoto, Yukihiro
**Producer:** Iwakami, Atsuhiro

**Cast:**
Kaname, Madoka = Yūki, Aoi
Akemi, Homura = Saitō, Chiwa
Miki, Sayaka = Kitamura, Eri
Tomoe, Mami = Mizuhashi, Kaori
Sakura, Kyōko = Nonaka, Ai

ever, while I did enjoy *Madoka Magica* and consider myself a fan, I approached this film with no expectations, and I judge the story solely from its merits as a sequel. And, at the end, I found the story to be overly convoluted, poorly paced and thrown together with more importance given to hitting a 'reset' button for more franchise profit potential, rather than telling a new and complete story to compliment the original. It's not so much that it was a bad story, but rather one that had a lot of potential and fell on its face at the end - which is almost more disappointing than a bad one.

Though the story was lacking, there is one thing Shaft nailed and that is the art and animation. Much like in the original series, the world of *Madoka Magica* is quite surreal—the characters live in an almost dream-like utopia, sprinkled with glass-laden spires and towers, beautiful gardens and pristine city blocks. Then there is the creepy, nightmarish worlds of the witches, with cut-out art nouveau parades, beautifully textured dreamscapes and stop-motion animation combined with the unique 2D style of the show—there really isn't anything quite like it in the world of anime. And while it is not always perfect, it stands out as an example of successful mixed format animation.

Because of the setting of *Rebellion*, the animators go wild for a large portion of the film. So much so that I would say that it is sometimes too much of a good thing, but still always a treat to watch more of it. My only real complaint is that at times the 2D animation of the characters felt phoned in or boiled a bit, but I will chalk that up to the fact that many anime films operate on a very tight budget with very strict deadlines. Though during the action and important moments of the film, the animation team put in the effort where it counted.

The sound adds a lot more to the atmosphere of *Rebellion*. The music treads familiar and welcome territory and compliments every moment of animation. The sound effects and voice work was also very well done, with special attention being taken to their surroundings.

As far as characters go, I had three major issues with this that go in tandem with *Rebellion's* story. Before I go into those though, I will say that Kyōko and Sayaka fans will appreciate their larger role in this story, and their friendship is a positive and fun element to this otherwise grim movie. But we don't get to see how they became so close, it is more or less implied.

The first major character issue is the addition of Nagisa Momoe/Bebe. I consider this a minor spoiler, so if you do not want to read any more about this then please skip this paragraph. Moving on, Bebe was teased to audiences for months as being in this film, and indeed, she does appear in her pre-witch form for brief moments in the movie. Consider it an alternate universe where, instead of Bebe biting Mami's head off, Mami befriends her and becomes part of her team of taking down Nightmares. And I will admit, she is adorable, albeit annoying at times. The problem? There is almost no point to her being in the film. She serves absolutely no purpose beyond attracting curious fans to wonder why she is there, and when she is, she has nothing significant to add to the plot. The one time she could add anything significant to the plot, it is mentioned that she can explain something, and then is never mentioned again. She felt like a shoe-in and I honestly do not think the film would have suffered at all without her.

Bebe

The second is Homura. Homura's character is completely altered by the end of this film. I understand her torment and the negative effects that seeing the same events occur over and over may have had on her, but I found her actions at the end of the story to be foolish and confusing. And when all is said and done, her decisions are trivial at best and amount to almost nothing. I feel like I do not know who she is anymore, and, more importantly, that perhaps the writers don't, either. And I find this rather troubling for a once strong character who has been diminished to something more of a reckless psychopath. Perhaps she will be "redeemed" when the time comes, but for a self-contained story, the path that they have decided to take with Homura is nothing short of disappointing.

The last is, well, the entire cast. I already went over this briefly but I'll mention it one more time. The universe in which the story of *Rebellion* takes place is, for lack of a better word, fake. The events take place entirely in a bubble, almost quite literally, and feel inconsequential. It's almost one of those "everything was a dream" endings, and it compounds on the slight sense of unfamiliarity that you get from how the cast behaves in *Rebellion*—and then it all gets tossed out in the end. It's misleading, and leaves a hollow feeling that the original series didn't. I don't mean to say that all stories should have happy endings, but *Rebellion's* tragic ending feels cheap, forced and uninspired—and at the deep cost of a loss of characterization.

In the end, the movie still comes out being slightly better than average. *Rebellion* has a lot of powerful material to work with, and its premise starts out strong. But it tries so hard to be even darker and more macabre than its predecessor, while still attempting to make way for even more sequels, and because of this it falls desperately short of its potential.

Though I still hope for the best for the future of the *Madoka Magica* franchise. This film, for better or worse, is sort of a "reset button" for the series, and for all I know the next season or movie could be multitudes better than *Rebellion* could have been. But, for now, *Rebellion* leaves *Madoka Magica* on a confusing and sour note, one that would be a real shame to leave on. ❖ RTIL

Nagisa Momoe

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# Convention Schedule

## Spring 2014

### Anime Boston
March 21-23
Hynes Convention Center
Boston, MA
***www.animeboston.com***

### Con-nichiwa
March 21-23
Tucson Convention Center
Tucson, AZ
***www.con-nichiwa.com***

### Kitsune Kon
March 21-23
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel
Appleton, WI
***www.kitsunekon.com/blog/***

### MegaCon
March 21-23
Orange County
Convention Center
Orlando, FL
***www.megaconvention.com***

### Vericon
March 21-23
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA
***www.vericon.org***

### Animarathon
March 22
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH
***www.animarathon.com***

### Mizuumi-Con
March 22
Our Lady of the
Lake University
San Antonio, TX
***www.mizuumicon.org***

### Shobou Con
March 22
Greenbrier Library
Chesapeake, VA
***www.shoboucon.wordpress.com***

Photo by T. Brillo

### AnimeJapan
March 22-23
Tokyo Big Sight
Tokyo, Japan
***www.anime-japan.jp***

### MCM Birmingham Comic Con
March 22-23
The NEC Birmingham
Birmingham, UK
***www.mcmcomiccon.com/birmingham***

### Anime Punch: Armageddicon
March 28-30
Holiday Inn Worthington
Columbus, OH
***www.animepunch.org/armageddicon***

### Conbust
March 28-30
Smith College (Seelye Hall)
Northampton, MA
***sophia.smith.edu/conbust/***

### EvilleCon
March 28-30
Clarion Inn, Evansville, IN
***www.evillecon.com***

### J-Popcon
March 28-30
DGI-byen, Copenhagen, Denmark
***www.j-popcon.dk/da/***

### Kaizokucon
March 28-30
University College Cork
Cork, Ireland
***www.kaizokucon.com***

Photo by L. Tuazon

### Kitacon
March 28-30
Hilton Birmingham Metropole
Hotel, Birmingham, UK
***www.kitacon.org***

### ASAHi Con
March 29
Antioch High School
Antioch, CA
***www.asahicon.org***

### Jaycon
March 29-30
Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, PA
***www.jaycon.weebly.com***

### Midoricon 2.5
March 29-30, 2014
Shawnee Lodge &
Conference Center
West Portsmouth, OH
***www.midoricon.com/2.5/***

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# Convention Schedule

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

### MiraiCon
March 29-30
William Paterson University
Wayne, NJ
***www.miraicon.squarespace.com***

### Newcastle-Con
March 29-30, 2014
Eldon Square Shopping Centre,
Eldon Leisure
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK
***www.nclcon.co.uk***

### Oz Comic-Con: Perth
March 29-30, 2014
Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Perth, WA Australia
***www.ozcomiccon.com***

### A&G
April 4-6
Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington, KY
***www.cartooncon.org***

### Anime Detour
April 4-6
DoubleTree by Hilton
Bloomington Minneapolis South
Bloomington, MN
***www.animedetour.com***

### Kawaii Kon
April 4-6
Hawaii Convention Center
Honolulu, HI
***www.kawaii-kon.org***

### Nadeshicon
April 4-6
Université Laval
Quebec City, Quebec
***www.nadeshicon.ca***

### Shuto Con
April 4-6
Lansing Convention Center
Lansing, MI
***www.shutocon.com***

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### Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Gold Coast
April 4-6
Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
Broadbeach, QLD Australia
***www.supanova.com.au***

### Tekko
April 4-6
David L. Lawrence Convention Center,
Pittsburgh, PA
***www.tekkoshocon.com***

### Oz Comic-Con: Adelaide
April 5-6
Adelaide Showgrounds
Adelaide, SA Australia
***www.ozcomiccon.com***

### SciFi Scarborough
April 5-6
Scarborough Spa Conference & Entertainment Venue
Scarborough, UK
***www.scifiscarborough.co.uk***

### Castle Point Anime Convention
April 6
Stevens Institute of Technology
Hoboken, NJ
***www.castlepointanime.com***

### Kraken Con
April 6
Oakland Convention Center
Oakland, CA
***www.krakencon.com***

### Shinboku Con
April 10-13
Sawmill Creek Resort
Huron, OH
***www.shinbokucon.com***

### Anime St. Louis
April 11-13
Gateway Center/DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Collinsville-St. Louis, Collinsville, IL
***www.animestl.net***

### Khaotic Kon
April 11-13
Sheraton Tampa East Hotel
Tampa, FL
***www.khaotickon.com***

### Kigacon
April 11-13
Christopher Newport University
Newport News, VA
***www.cnuanimecon.wordpress.com***

### Sabaku Con
April 11-13
Crowne Plaza Albuquerque
Albuquerque, NM
***www.sabakucon.com***

### UK Epxo
April 11-13
Milwaukee Hyatt Regency
Milwaukee, WI
***www.ukexpo.org***

### Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Melbourne
April 11-13
Melbourne Showgrounds
Melbourne, VIC Australia
***www.supanova.com.au***

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## Sukoshi Con Prime
April 12
Holiday Inn Birmingham-Airport
Birmingham, AL
***www.sukoshicon.com/prime/***

## ALT*Con: Tallahassee
April 12-13
Donald L. Tucker Civic Center
Tallahassee, FL
***www.tallahassee.altconflorida.com***

## MCM Ireland Comic Con
April 12-13
RDS Arena, Dublin, Eire
***www.mcmcomiccon.com/ireland/***

## Anime Conji
April 18-20
Sheraton San Diego Hotel &
Marina, San Diego, CA
***www.animeconji.org***

## FanExpo Vancouver
April 18-20
Vancouver Convention Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia
***www.fanexpovancouver.com***

## FreeCon
April 18-20
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL
***www.tallahasseeanime.com/freecon/index.html***

## Middle Tennessee Anime Convention
April 18-20
Embassy Suites Nashville
SE - Murfreesboro
Murfreesboro, TN
***www.mtac.net***

## Sakura-Con
April 18-20
Washington State Convention
& Trade Center, Seattle, WA
***www.sakuracon.org***

## WonderCon Anaheim
April 18-20
Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, CA
***www.comic-con.org/wca***

## Mini Con
April 19
Quality Inn Sawgrass Conference
Center, Plantation, FL
***www.flminicons.com***

## NashiCon
April 19-20
Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center
Columbia, SC
***flminicons.com***

## Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo
April 24-27
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta
***www.calgaryexpo.com***

## No Brand Con
April 25-27
Plaza Hotel and Suites
Eau Claire, WI
***www.nobrandcon.org***

## Zenkaikon
April 25-27
Lancaster County Convention
Center, Lancaster, PA
***www.zenkaikon.com***

## Knoxville Comic & Anime Con
April 26-27
Knoxville Expo Center
Knoxville, TN
***www.knoxvillecomicanimecon.com***

## Mang'Azur
April 26-27
Palais Des Congres Neptune
Toulon, France
***www.mangazur.fr***

## Sabakon
April 26-27
Alexis Park Resort
Las Vegas, NV
***www.sabakon.com***

## Saltburn Anime Convention
April 26-27
The Spa Hotel
Saltburn-by-the-Sea, UK
***www.saltburnanimecon.wix.com/sac-14***

## BelleCON
May 2-4
Wyndham Jacksonville
Riverwalk, Jacksonville, FL
***www.belleconventions.com***

## Anime Southeast
May 9-11
Sevierville Events Center
Sevierville, TN
***www.animesoutheast.com***

## Animefest
May 9-11
Brno Expo
Brno, Czech Republic
***www.animefest.cz***

## Anime Central
May 16-18
Hyatt Regency O'Hare/Donald
E. Stephens Convention Center
Rosemont, IL
***www.acen.org***

## Otafest
May 16-18
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta
***www.otafest.com***

## CloverCon
May 18
Ted Blum 4-H Center
Bridgewater, NJ
***www.clovercon.org***

Photo by L. Tuazon

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# Convention Schedule

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

### Animazement
May 23-25
Raleigh Convention Center
Raleigh, NC
***www.animazement.org***

### Anime North
May 23-25
Toronto Congress Center
Toronto, Ontario
***www.animenorth.com***

### AniMinneapolis
May 23-25
Hyatt Regency Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN
***www.animinneapolis.com***

### Florida Anime Experience
May 23-25
International Palms Resort & Conference Center
Orlando, FL
***www.floridaanime.com***

### Mobicon
May 23-25
Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel
Mobile, AL
***www.mobicon.org***

### MomoCon
May 23-25
Hilton Atlanta/Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Atlanta, GA
***www.momocon.com***

### Omni Expo
May 23-25
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, FL
***www.omniexpo.com/control.cfm***

### Anime Oasis
May 23-26
Grove Hotel/ CenturyLink Arena
Boise, ID
***www.animeoasis.org***

Photo by L. Tuazon

### FanimeCon
May 23-26
San Jose McEnery Convention Center
San Jose, CA
***www.fanime.com***

### Puerto Rico Comic Con
May 24-25
Puerto Rico Convention Center
San Juan, Puerto Rico
***www.prcomiccon.com***

### SoDak Anime Convention
May 30 - June 1
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD
***www.sdcon.org***

### JABEcon!
May 31
Cumberland University, Learning Commons
Lebanon, TN
***www.jabecon.com***

### Colossalcon
June 5-8
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center
Sandusky, OH
***www.colossalcon.com***

### A-Kon
June 6-8
Hilton Anatole Dallas
Dallas, TX
***www.a-kon.com***

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### AnimeNEXT
June 6-8
Garden State Exhibit Center
Somerset, NJ
***www.animenext.org***

### HamaCon
June 6-8
Von Braun Center
Huntsville, AL
***www.hama-con.com***

### Knightrokon
June 7-8
University of Central Florida Student Union
Orlando, FL
***www.knightrokon.com***

### MCM Belfast Comic Con
June 7-8
Kings Hall Complex Belfast
Belfast, UK
*www.mcmcomiccon.com/belfast/*

### Anime 2014
June 13-15
World Forum
The Hague, Netherlands
*www.animecon.nl*

### Anime Apex
June 13-15
Sheraton Tampa East Hotel
Tampa, FL
*www.animeapex.com/control.cfm*

### Anime Mid-Atlantic
June 13-15
Chesapeake Conference Center
Chesapeake, VA
*www.animemidatlantic.com*

### OMGcon
June 13-15
Owensboro Convention Center
Owensboro, KY
*www.omgcon.com*

### Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Sydney
June 13-15
Sydney Olympic Park
Sydney, NSW Australia
*www.supanova.com.au*

### Yorkshire Cosplay Con
June 14
Doncaster Dome Leisure Centre
Doncaster, UK
*www.yorkshirecosplaycon.co.uk*

### PortConMaine
June 19-22
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Portland, ME
South Portland, ME
*www.portconmaine.com/web/*

### Anime Blues Con
June 20-22
Memphis Cook Convention
Center, Memphis, TN
*www.animeblues.com*

### Idol Matsuri
June 20-22
Best Western Plus Silverdale
Beach Hotel, Silverdale, WA
*www.idolmatsuri.com*

### Seishun-Con
June 20-22
Westin Atlanta Airport
Atlanta, GA
*www.seishun-con.com*

### Supanova Pop Culture Expo - Perth
June 20-22
Perth Convention and Exhibition
Centre, Perth, WA Australia
*www.supanova.com.au*

### Medicine Hat Fan Round Up
June 21
Medicine Hat College
Medicine Hat, Alberta
*www.mhfanroundup.com*

### SunnyCon
June 21-22
Pullman Lodge Hotel, Bar &
Function Suite, Sunderland, UK
*www.sunnycon.co.uk*

Photo by T. Brillo

### Wie.MAI.KAI
June 21-22
Bürgerhaus Kastel
Wiesbaden, Germany
*www.wiemaikai.de*

### Anime Festival Wichita
June 27-29
Hyatt Regency Wichita
Wichita, KS
*www.afwcon.org*

### Northwest Fan Fest
June 27-29
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia
*www.northwestfanfest.com*

### Nishikaze
June 28
University of Lethbridge,
Anderson Hall
Lethbridge, Alberta
*www.nishikaze.ca*

### Japan Expo
July 2-6
Paris-Nord Villepinte
Paris, France
*www.japan-expo.com*

### Anime Expo
July 3-6
Los Angeles Convention Center
Los Angeles, CA
*www.anime-expo.org*

### Westercon
July 3-6
Marriott Hotel Downtown at
City Creek, Salt Lake City, UT
*www.utahwestercon.org/Westercon67.html*

### Anime Midwest
July 4-6
Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Rosemont, IL
*www.animemidwest.com*

### Sukoshicon: Louisville Anime Weekend
July 4-6
Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport
Expo Center, Louisville, KY
*sukoshicon.com/louisville*

### GeekFest Québec
July 5-6
Cégep Limoilou, Quebec, Quebec
*www.geekfestmtl.com/geekfestqc*

**Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance**
**メタルギア ライジング リベンジェンス**
February 19, 2013 (NA)
Platinum Games
Konami

**Platform:** PC, PS3, X360

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metal_Gear_Rising:_Revengeance
www.konami.jp/mgr/

**Director:** Saito, Kenji
**Producer:** Inaba, Atsushi

**Rating ESRB:** Mature

# "One sword keeps another in the sheath"

After playing through the demo of *Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance*, I knew that it was a game that I had to pick up. I did not really know much about the series since I only beat *Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty* and only watched briefly some of *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*, but what I did know from these two encounters it that the story behind Metal Gear games seemed to be very deep... So after heading to GameStop and picking up my copy, I headed home and attempted to beat *DmC: Devil May Cry's Bloody Palace* mode a few times before popping the game into my Xbox 360's disc tray.

There was no special introduction whatsoever, and it reminded me of *DmC: Devil May Cry* in a way that the demo intro was the exact same as the actual game, which was very disappointing (But at least *Revengeance's* is cooler in the way that it actually looks compared to *DmC's*). Going into a new game, I decided to go ahead and start off on Normal Difficulty.

This game goes to a cut scene with Prime Minister N'Mani and and his adviser sitting in a limousine driven by Maverick (a Private Military Company or "PMC") employee Courtney in the front seat with two unknown operatives sitting in the back with Raiden between both of them. A discussion takes place where N'Mani talks about "How long they have come in just three short years", letting me know that their country was either in ruins or disorderly or both before the arrival of Maverick. He is expressing his thankfulness for PMC and his adviser before holding a conversation with Raiden... right before everything is thrown into chaos.

Someone is standing in front of the lead armored tank that is leading Raiden and N'Mani's vehicle to its destination which causes them to stop and find what the problem is. This guy soon enough draws his sword while ignoring the armored tank's gunner warning of being authorized to use deadly force, slashing through bullets the guy with the sword chops him in half and grins back at everyone else before Courtney calls for a retreat. Turning and driving they run into more opposition, disabling the tank at the rear with a rocket launcher and N'Mani's adviser saying, "We are going to die". Eventually once they drive away from a barricaded exit they run into more troops, that of which is now unavoidable before Raiden is called into action. "Guard the Prime Minister!" is his last order before stepping out of the car, throwing off his suit & tie to reveal his cyborg body, and cutting down the exit behind him so the troops cannot run past him to pursue the limousine, "Let's get this over with" as he removes his sword from its case and sheath and takes a battle pose, this is where the game begins.

## Sunny, Wolf, and Raiden

The main story of this game basically surrounds Raiden's internal struggle with why he wields his blade and if he has truly recovered from the child soldier training he underwent in Liberia that turned him into "Jack the Ripper", an infamous murderer. This all comes to place when he finds out that World Marshal is collaborating with Desperado to traffic children with the intent of turning them into killers like he was through the use of the same VR (Virtual Reality) Training he underwent as a kid. After finding out the two companies true motivation behind their action, Raiden makes a conscious decision to stop what is happening through use of his sword. Eventually he finds out that it is a seedier plot behind everything and the true reasons behind the children's kidnapping and being turned into merciless killers, and only he alone is stopping them.

As far as the main story goes, I was originally thinking that Raiden would be after revenge on Jetstream Sam for chopping off one of his arms and destroying his vision in his left eye (I mean, this is called "Revengeance" after all); however, this was not the case. It was possible to tell this from how Raiden says, "Not again!" after Sam chops it off in the very first mission, it lead me to believe that it has already happened before (And from what I am hearing, in *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*) and is not actually a big deal. It progresses into something much bigger, not the fact that they are harboring child soldiers or the fact of how they

are trying to effect countries through the state of war, but the internal struggle that Raiden himself is dealing with.

Raiden was trained to be a child killer and was never ever given a choice in the matter. He does not want others to undergo the very same hell that he experienced, the feeling of having joy from slaughtering innocent people because that is the only thing you know, and you believe you are right in doing it. The fact he thought he was doing the right thing was also questioned by how Jetstream Sam told him did he ever think the soldiers he was fighting really had a choice to do what they were doing, "Is your cause just? Or is that just what you tell yourself"? The utter brilliance comes when Raiden excepts who he is and finding that his sword is meant to save, but by doing what he thinks is right innocents will be spread; killing other enemies so others do not have to and so that other lives may be spared, "One sword keeps another in the Sheath".

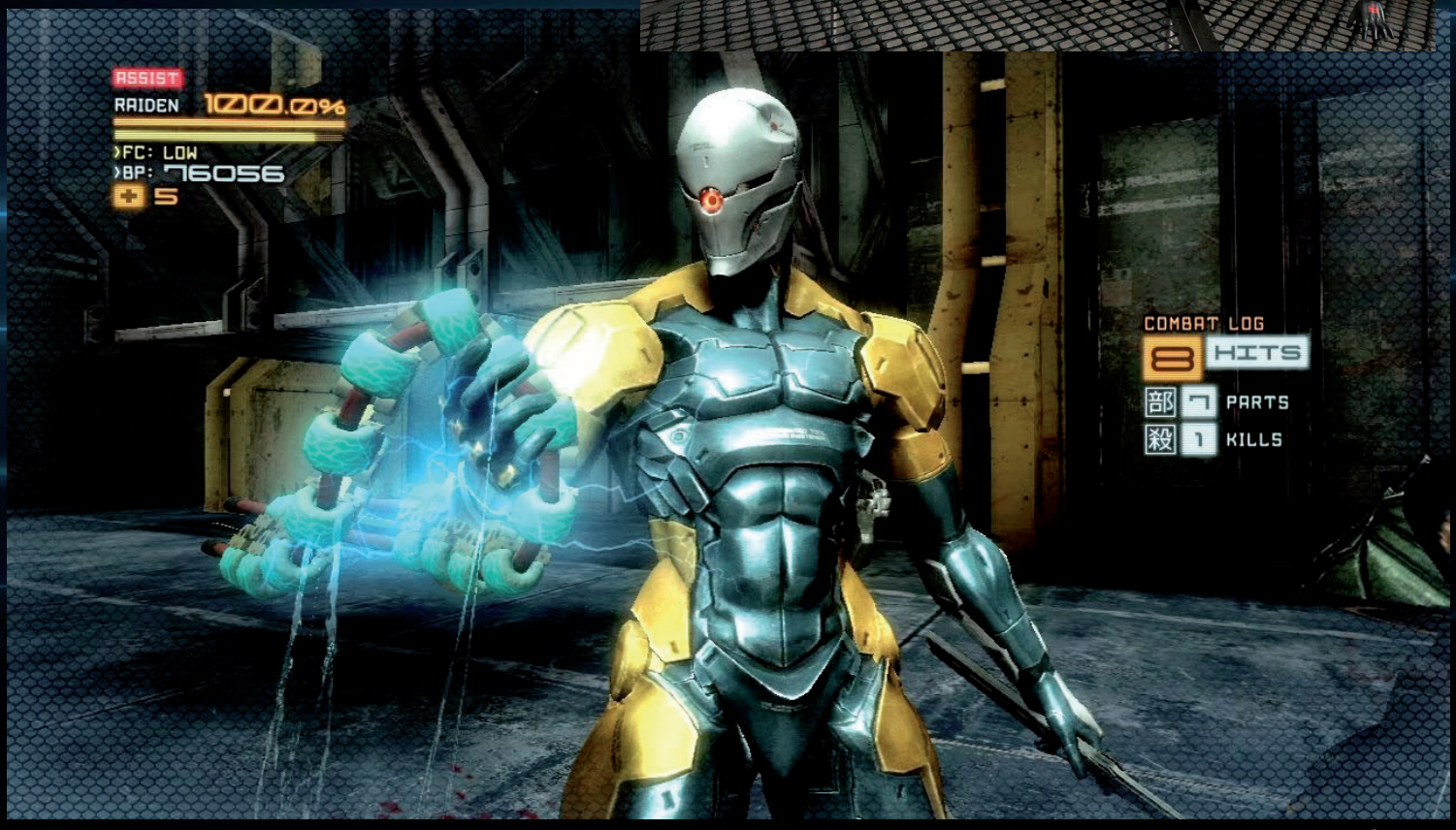
I was also quite pleased with the hidden undertones that they presented, mainly about the philosophy between what is right and wrong and how we often alter our views to suit our own selfish needs. It also speaks of brainwashing people and also having ourselves be effected by what is all around us and through the "memes" of others, consequently what we may hold as "Freedom" and "Choice" are not actually freedoms at all. It also speaks of how humanity is doomed to follow through with this and creates an endless cycle of the very same.

Also, the humor is not bad either. Throughout the game there are tid bits of humor in order to break the sometimes overbearing burden it feels like Raiden is carrying. Doktor speaking as if your safety was also a consideration only after he realizes how eager he is for extra research data, George repeated calling of Raiden as "Ninja man", and even Wolf's breakdown of Raiden's humor of " Throwing Wolf a bone" because of his canine exoskeleton.

The campaign itself was enjoyable but it was very, very short (around 4-6 hours on Normal Difficulty). I felt like they could have did much more with the game in the way that they told the story in order to extend it, but I guess short and sweet is better than something that is dragged out. However, I think they could have went further by just explaining in detail more about some things left up in the air, like why the Prime Minister called him "Mr. Lightning Bolt" (also explaining in detail about the "Patriots" since some, like me, played *Metal Gear Rising* because it is a Hack n' Slash and did not bother with the games in the *Metal Gear Solid* series). I would have liked to know more about the cyborg initiative and how that was possible, flash backs to Raiden's days as a child soldier in libera and what he had to do (including a possible segment with him as a child undergoing VR Training similar to what the brains were given). Not to mention the ending was quite up in the air, though it did make sense with what was happening it will throw you for a loop and is oddly nonsensical seeing how serious Raiden becomes by the end of the game. The saving grace of this game in terms of length is that harder difficulties provide much more of a challenge in order to keep the game enjoyable (especially if you want that achievement for S'ing every mission of game on Revengeance Difficulty).

## Combat, Enemies, & Bosses

As far as the combat goes, I will say that it is pretty polished overall. You will be using X or Square for Light Attacks, Y or Triangle for Heavy Attacks (or this button will serve as your secondary main weapon should you equip one), Left Bumper or L1 to bring out your sub weapon and Right Trigger or R2 to fire it. You are able to "Ninja Run" by pushing and holding the Right Trigger or R2 button (this will automatically cause



Raiden to run and lets him automatically deflect bullet fire and jump over/dodge obstacles). Pushing Left Trigger or L1 will cause Raiden to enter "Blade Mode" where you can use the Right Stick or a mix of the Square/X or Triangle/Y buttons to perform vertical and horizontal slashes and cut your opponents into little pieces while aiming for the glowing square to try and "Zandatsu" (grabbing your opponents recovery pack from their body to gain life and absorb their electrolytes). Also, after the fight with Monsoon you will gain access to "Ripper Mode" by pushing in both sticks simultaneously while you have full Meter, allowing you to "Cut at will" without going into blade mode and slice through opponents and armor fairly quickly.

In my opinion, combat in itself is pretty fluent and poses a significant challenge on later difficulties with the need to parry everything rather than a traditional block function; this is because off screen opponents will still attack you and opponents in general attack relentlessly and you must parry in the direction they are coming from. Fighting can prove to be frantic and exciting, but also feels very structured in how have to approach the enemies you are dealing with and prioritize exactly which ones you should kill first. However, I do feel as though there is more of a priority in getting to certain ranges in order to parry and initialize a counterattack for a one hit kill rather than fighting against certain types of enemies; because of this I feel like there is a specific strategy that comes with killing every foe that needs to be abused if you want to make it through the game. As far as stealth goes, it is not really a concern for most of this game on regular difficulties, however, once you begin in Hard and Revengeance difficulty you will find stealth kills to be invaluable and will prefer to wait it out instead of fighting for your life going "Gung-ho" every single time.

Enemies in this game are fun to fight against because you have different types, and even the most basic of your enemies becomes a challenge in groups upon clearing the game. This is different than *DmC: Devil May Cry* for me because enemies are fearless and attack at you relentlessly and will do their best to avoid you when you enter Ripper or Blade Mode to avoid dying as much as possible. Heavily Armored enemies and Fenrir's provide the most difficult kills in my opinion, but with practice you can stand up to them and vanquish them pretty easily, but that will come with loads of deaths and practices. No enemy is entirely too difficulty per say, but it is more of the waves in which you are given your enemies that make them a force, and the amount of damage they do at higher difficulties. I think Platinum Games did a very good job in this department and should be applauded.

Now on to the bosses. Bosses in my opinion are very disappointing when it comes to this game. As far as fighting them goes and the difficulty of them in general; I thought we would be experiencing fights of epic proportions that would become more and more grand as time went on.... but it did not, it stayed pretty average and tame compared to what I expected would eventually erupt. Your first fight in File R-00 against Metal Gear Ray was absolutely fantastic, it had several portions to the fight and experienced an amazing sequence where you are thrown into the side of a clock tower and are running down it while dodging missiles and Ray's Plasma Beam in order to slash him in half vertically, amazing. Even the first fight in File R-01 where you are against Mistral, you fight her in several sections and finish her off by having her stab a liquid nitrogen tank and slashing her into a million pieces, magnificent. However, the final fights between Monsoon, Sundowner, Jetstream Sam (major disappointment here), and the final unknown boss are all entirely too easy and are not of dramatic proportions

at all. These should have been the highlight of the entire game but posses the most significant letdown of the entire thing. Do not get me wrong, they are all good fights in their own right but are significantly less mind-blowing than you would expect them to be, especially from the first couple of boss fights you encounter.

## Unlocks & Miscellaneous Information

As far as the unlocks go for this game, you will have access to different Main, Secondary, Wigs, and other things dependent upon things done inside of the game. Such as collecting 10 Officer Left Arms will unlock Infinite Wig A which grants unlimited ammo for sub weapons while 20 will give you Infinite Wig B allowing you to have infinite Blade Meter, Finding all Men In Boxes and earning the "Peekaboo" achievement grants you access to the High Frequency Wooden Blade, and defeating each of the bosses gives you their main weapon among other things.

I will say that the unlocks are well distributed in the game and rewards you for doing other activities which further enforces players to go back and experience everything the game has to offer. Most of the time you have to undergo certain grueling tasks extra in order to unlock things that may or may not be usable, however, by doing things that are also counting towards earning achievements/trophies you are also unlocking things to make your life a lot easier (such as using the HF Wooden Blade to earn the achievement which requires you going through 10 fights without killing anyone).

As far as a few of the extra things in the game, I am quite impressed by a few side choices they chose to include. Such as one of the Sub weapons being a Cardboard box to give homage to Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty. Also, at one point you are able to slash a saved civilian and remove him of all clothes except his boxers and if you were to call any of your allies on Codec they will be disgusted with you, an example is Courtney saying, "You can save your own damn data!" among other things. Not to mention a few obscure references to Solid Snake and the Ninja Turtles. I even enjoyed the one guard that seemed to be an otaku who had posters of anime girls on the walls and was reading through an anime style magazine and gawking at pictures of 2-D cuties.

## Known & Future Downloadable Content (DLC)

### Grey Fox Costume

As far as downloadable content, a few things have been known. If you Pre-Ordered the game from GameStop you were given a code to unlock the FOX Blade and an outfit that made Raiden look like Grey Fox. The FOX Blade itself has the ability to randomly slice through something cleanly, even armor, even better than when Ripper Mode is activated (once you spend 200,000 to unlock the weapon and another 100,000 to level up its ability, I believe it is the strongest weapon in the game...but not very good for getting Zandatsu).

Also, set to release relatively soon for Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 is DLC which includes some back story chapters of Jetstream Sam and Wolf before they encounter Raiden, as well as 30 VR missions to conquer. These will be good for achievements and also allow you to see what happened to motivate their events in the main game. Also, there will be DLC for a Wooden Sword that talks like Solid Snake and the ability to play as LQ-84i.

From what I have heard, this Downloadable Content will be dropping in Japan fist and will next be coming to America and Europe shortly after. Exclusivity on release will be given to Playstation 3 with Xbox 360's release of the DLC coming sometime after.

## The Verdict

Platinum Games did their thing and again created a masterful game that truly brings to life the character of Raiden by showing off the high intensity action brought about by his line of work and the demons of his past as a child soldier that still haunt and drive him to this very day. I feel his character was portrayed very well in a way that only Platinum Games could tell it (and I believe Hideo

Kojima felt the same way, as if he said that if a second installment were to take place that Platinum Games would have to be the ones to do it.

The battles were solid, even if they were not as over the top as I would have liked (considering that Platinum Games made both *Bayonetta* and *Vanquish,* both very over the top in the way that they are played), but if one was not expecting that this game is simply excellent, and it still is regardless. Unlockables are a good reason to continue to go through the game and earn achievements and meaningful DLC on its way is a reason to keep the game around and play more. This is one of the best Hack n' Slash games to come about in a very long time and the love is shown, even if it is a relatively short game. I am hoping there will be a *Metal Gear Rising* part 2 because I feel like I am left on a cliff hanger as far as what Raiden will do about the threats that pose this world, forging his own path with his High Frequency blade in hand and Samurai Code leading his way.

**Thank you for reading my review for Platinum Games and Kojima Productions *Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance*. Until next time, Arigatou & Sayonara!**

**❖ Rok the Reaper**

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www.sacanime.com

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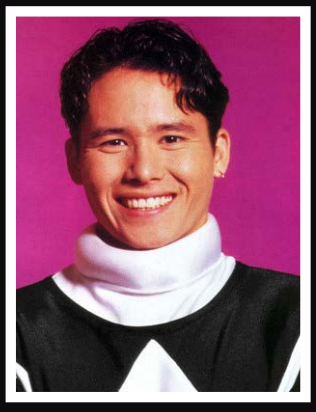
**NOAH WATTS**
*Assassins Creed III*

**SAM RIEGEL**
*Amazing Spiderman, Naruto, Sofia the First*

**J MICHAEL TATUM**
*Ouron H. S. Host Club Black Butler, Soul Eater*



**JOHNNY YONG BOSCH**
*Power Rangers, Bleach, Trigun*

**YURI LOWENTHAL**
*Naruto, Bleach, Ben 10, Shelf Life*

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# Anime Schedule 2014 Spring Season

## Majin Bone

マジンボーン

Toei Animation ✦ April 1 ✦ TV Tokyo

www.toei-anim.co.jp/tv/majinbone/ ✦ youtu.be/tXKc1VPlGTA

This story began before Earth was born. Majin, the creator of the Universe, has been resurrected in the present day. Shōgo Ryūjin, an ordinary high school student who transforms into the Bone Fighter Dragonbone with the Bone Card in order to save Earth. Together, these White Bone warriors stand up to Dark Bone, a foe that appeared from darkness to devastate Earth. However, could the true enemy be ourselves?

## Disk Wars: Avengers

ディスク・ウォーズ：アベンジャーズ

Toei Animation ✦ April 2 ✦ TV Tokyo

www.marvel-japan.com/news/detail.html?p=21890 ✦ youtu.be/YL86JPqiycA

The story will focus on the Avengers comprised of Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, Hulk and Wasp. They will join forces with Spider-Man and a group of teens. The heroes will harness their respective fighting skills and superhuman powers to foil Loki's plans to conquer the world. The project is an effort by Walt Disney Japan to deliver content tailored to meet the needs of local consumers. The series will be the first to target boys and intended to delight Japanese viewers.

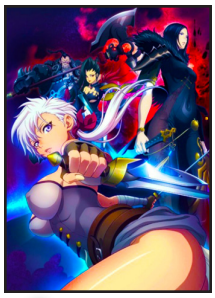
## Akuma no Riddle (Riddle Story of Devil)

悪魔のリドル

Diomedea ✦ April 3 ✦ MBS/TBS

akuma-riddle.com ✦ youtu.be/CboNeTHAr0A

Haru Ichinose is a student at a private girls' boarding school, Myōjō Academy, who is being targeted by 12 assassins disguised as students. Tokaku Azuma is a transfer student and an assassin who also initially targets Haru, but develops feeling for her and decides to protect her from the other assassins.



## Blade and Soul

ブレイドアンドソウル

Gonzo ✦ April 3 ✦ TBS/BS-TBS

www.tbs.co.jp/anime/blade/ ✦ youtu.be/hyzvS3avHn0

Anime adaptation of *Blade & Soul* that brings the world of Asian martial arts fantasy to life in this massively multiplayer online universe. Enter a lush world drawn from myth and legend, and bursting with action and intrigue!

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

# Anime Schedule 2014 Spring

## Bokura wa Minna Kawai-Sō (We Are All From Dormitory Kawa)

僕らはみんな河合荘
Brain's Base • April 3 • TBS/BS-TBS
www.tbs.co.jp/anime/kawaisou/
Kazunari Usa will start living far from his parents in a dormitory near his school just to find out that a pervert he meets earlier and his crush is living in the same dormitory as him.

## Selector Infected Wixoss

J.C.Staff • April 3 • Tokyo MX
selector-wixoss.com
The series is directed by Takuya Satō (*Steins;Gate*) at JC. Staff, and will follow a group of girls who are drawn into a dangerous game.

## Inugami-san to Nekoyama-san

犬神さんと猫山さん
Seven • April 4 • Teletama
www.dreamcreation.co.jp/inuneko/
About two best friends Yachiyo Inugami and Suzu Nekoyama. Inugami likes cats and has a dog-like personality. Nekoyama likes dogs and has a cat-like personality.

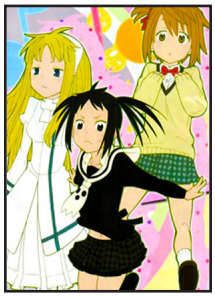
## JoJo's Bizarre Adventure Part 3: Stardust Crusaders (Part 3 Kūjō Jōtarō: Heritage for the Future)

第三部 空条承太郎 ―未来への遺産
David Production • April 4 • Tokyo MX
jojo-animation.com • youtu.be/V5-dUrGdCbw
follows Jōtarō Kūjō, the grandson of Joseph Joestar. In Japan, Jōtarō is a troublesome student who regularly gets into fights at school and antagonizes his teachers. He is put in prison after beating up three armed men and a trained boxer, but he refuses to leave, claiming he's possessed by an evil spirit.

## Mushishi Zoku-Shō

蟲師 続章
Artland • April 4 • Tokyo MX
www.mushishi-anime.com • youtu.be/s-4p0eRy6ZU
The story features ubiquitous creatures called Mushi. Due to their ethereal nature most humans are incapable of perceiving Mushi and are oblivious to their existence, but there are a few who possess the ability to see and interact with Mushi. One such person is Ginko, the main character of the series. He employs himself as a Mushi master, traveling from place to place to research Mushi and aid people suffering from problems caused by them.

# Season *Continued*



## Soul Eater Not!

ソウルイーターノット!

Bones • April 4 • TV Tokyo

www.souleaternot.tv • youtu.be/qoGvNse_TCo

A spin-off of *Soul Eater*. While the students of the "EAT" class train themselves to become warriors of justice, the "NOT" class is for those who just want to control their powers with the intent to not become a threat to others and to themselves. The series follows the daily lives of Tsugumi and her friends as they learn the ropes of the DWMA and have occasional encounters with the characters of the main series.

## Captain Earth

キャプテン•アース

Bones • April 5 • MBS

captain-earth.net • youtu.be/oCRmhnG_Mq0

One night right before summer vacation, Daichi Manatsu sees a weird round rainbow floating in the sky above Seed Island and ventures there alone. With the memories of his father's mysterious death and an encounter of a mysterious boy and girl, Daiji arrives on the island while the alarm of a building labeled "Earth Engine" is going off. Someone asks him "Are you a captain?" just as robotic intruders from Uranus called "Kiltgang" arrive. The battle around the shining stars is about to begin.

## Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

Studio Pierrot • April 5 • NHK-E

www9.nhk.or.jp/anime/babysteps/

Maruo Eiichirō one day decides he is unhappy with the way things are and lacks exercise. He finds a flier for the Tennis Club and decides check it out. With no prior experience and poor physical conditioning, he embarks on a tennis journey using his smarts, dedication and work ethic. He develops an extremely strategic approach to tennis, taking notes on the habits and tendencies of his opponents thus allowing him to predict their shots before they make them.

## Fairy Tail (2014)

フェアリーテイル

A-1 Pictures, Bridge • April 5 • TV Tokyo

www.fairytail-tv.com

Lucy Heartfilia is a 17-year-old celestial wizard who runs away from home to join Fairy Tail, a rambunctious wizards' guild whose members are famous for their overly destructive antics. Along the way, she meets Natsu Dragneel, a boy who is traveling the land of Fiore together with his partner Happy, a blue flying cat, in search of his foster parent, a dragon named Igneel who had disappeared seven years earlier. A continuation of the series.

## Kamigami no Asobi: Ludere deorum

神々の悪戯 - Ludere deorum

Brain's Base • April 5 • Tokyo MX

www.kamiaso-anime.com • youtu.be/Qp-5Ml4Yo2Q

Yui Kusanagi is the daughter of a Shinto shrine. She discovers a mysterious sword, which transports her to a different world where she meets the Greek god Zeus. He invites her to attend a school in a separate world that he created. Zeus intends to teach the meaning of love to the various young divine beings who also attend the school, in an attempt to reverse the weakening bond between humans and the gods.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

# Anime Schedule 2014 Spring

## Kenzen Robo Daimidaler (Daimidaler the Sound Robot)

健全ロボ ダイミダラ
TNK • April 5 • AT-X
penguin-empire.com • youtu.be/7QtaNvlWU1U
Kōichi Madanbashi is a high schooler who possesses Hi-ERo particles, which are used as an energy source for the robot Daimidaler. He obtains these particles by groping females, and uses them to power up the robot in order to fight penguin-shaped robots from the evil Penguin Empire.

## Kin'iro no Chord: Blue♪Sky

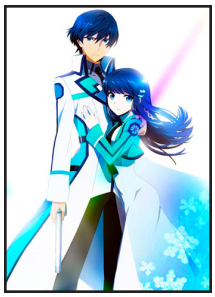
金色のコルダ Blue♪Sky
TYO Animations • April 5 • Nippon TV
www.gamecity.ne.jp/corda3/
Kahoko Hino is a student in the General Education section of Seiso Academy. One day she runs into Lili, a musical fairy, who grants her a magical violin and a place in the school's annual musical competition. Kahoko refuses, only to be pressed on by Lili until she accepts the instrument and place in the competition. As she practices, Kahoko is amazed that she can play any musical piece as long as she knows the tune and plays it with her heart.

## Kindaichi Shōnen no Jikenbo R (Returns) (Kindaichi Case Files R)

金田一少年の事件簿R[リターンズ]
Toei Animation • April 5 • Nippon TV
www.ytv.co.jp/kindaichi_r/
Kindaichi (frequently with best-bud, Miyuki) travels to various places where a murder has taken place, typically involving ghosts, curses, myths and folklore of significant events from the distant past, and solves the mystery using ingenious deductions of curious clues and his cool magic.

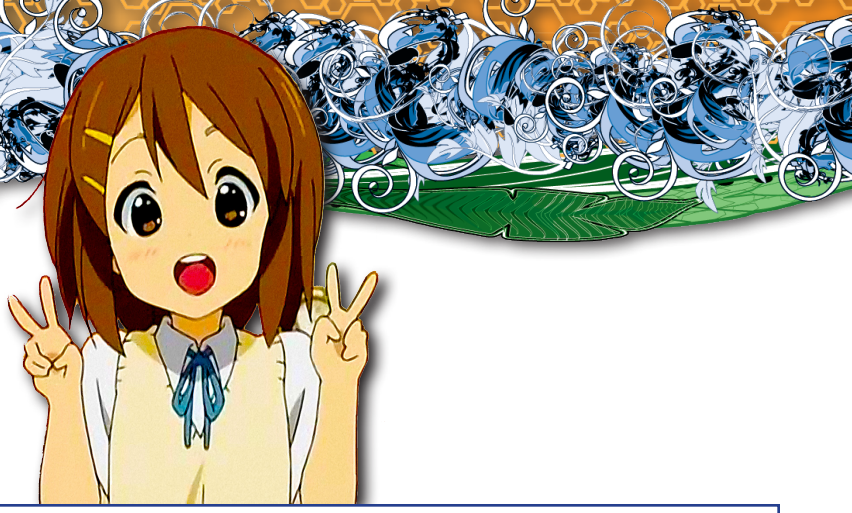
## Lady Jewelpet

レディ ジュエルペット
Studio Comet • April 5 • TV Tokyo
www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/jewelpet6/index.html
Momona is a regular middle school girl who adores her brother. One day when attending his wedding, she stumbled onto a white rabbit named Ruby and was transported to a strange new world called Jewel Land. Ruby revealed to her that she is a Jewelpet and she chose Momona to be her partner in becoming a Ladyjewel Candidate. Having no choice, she and Ruby must compete together in the Jewel Palace in order for her to become Jewel Land's next Queen.



## Mahōka Kōkō no Rettōsei (The Irregular at Magic High School)

魔法科高校の劣等生
Madhouse • April 5 • Tokyo MX
mahouka.jp • www.dailymotion.com/video/x19anrs_mahouka-pv_news
This is a story about magic and a center around a defective elder brother low achiever, who is lousy at magic but is an honors student and a perfect, flawless younger sister high achiever, who is good at everything. After both siblings entered a Magic High School, the stage of daily turbulence was unveiled.



# Season *Continued*

## Pretty Rhythm: All Star Selection

プリティーリズム・オールスターセレクション

Tatsunoko Production; DongWoo Animation • April 5 • TV Tokyo

www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/prettyrhythm/index2.html

Features the three main heroines from the past; Aira from *Pretty Rhythm Aurora Dream*, Mia from *Pretty Rhythm Dear My Future*, and Naru from *Pretty Rhythm Rainbow Live* will teach the new, unnamed heroine. The new girl is training to become an idol and the three previous idols will show her Prism Shows from the past to show her ways to shine.

## Seikoku no Dragonar (Dragonar Academy)

星刻の竜騎士

C-Station • April 5 • AT-X

www.seikokutv.com • youtu.be/fCRak4oyA9o

Ash Blake is the laughing stock at school because, despite his unfashionably large star-shaped brand that marks him as a future dragon master, he has nothing to show for it. His dragon has never appeared. Until now, that is. One fateful day, Ash's dragon awakes in full glory, but appears different than any dragon ever seen before—in the form of a beautiful girl!

## Soredemo Sekai wa Utsukushii (Even So, The World is Beautiful)

それでも世界は美しい

Studio Pierrot • April 5 • Nippon TV

www.ntv.co.jp/soreseka/

Nike, the determined princess of the Rain Dukedom who has a mysterious power: she can control rainfall. After losing a game of rock, paper, scissors to her older sisters, she is forced to unwillingly marry the king of the Sun Kingdom, Livius I. Livius (or Livi for short) conquered the world in three years and is known as the "Dreadful King." The story follows the two who, while at first are a married couple only in name, gradually begin to establish an emotional bond with one another.

## Abarenbō Kishi!! Matsutarō

暴れん坊力士！！松太郎

Toei Animation • April 6 • TV Asahi

www.tv-asahi.co.jp/matsutaro/

Matsutarō Sakaguchi is a giant roughneck man with strength far beyond ordinary people. He never uttered words like "work hard," "strive" and "dream" like the typical shōnen manga protagonist. However, he is stronger than anyone and peerless in sumo wrestling. His greatest weakness is his own carefree personality. He grows into a full-fledged sumo wrestler.

## Break Blade (2014)

ブレイク ブレイド

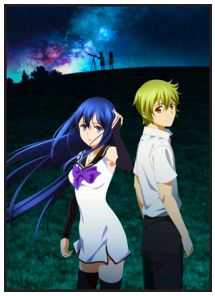
Production I.G, XEBEC • April 6 • Tokyo MX

breakblade.jp • youtu.be/Xi2gAa1VFXw

In the continent of Cruzon, an impending war between the Kingdom of Krisna and the nation of Athens is brimming. The people of this land are able to use quartz for whatever purpose they desire. Yet one person, Rygart Arrow, is not. He is an "un-sorcerer," a person unable to use quartz. But this characteristic will enable him to pilot an ancient Golem, one strong enough to put up a fight against the invading army of Athens.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

# Anime Schedule 2014 Spring



## Gokukoku no Brynhildr (Brynhilder in the Darkness)

極黒のブリュンヒルデ

Arms • April 6 • Tokyo MX

www.vap.co.jp/gokukoku/ • youtu.be/9DhyjR_hbMs

Ryōta Murakami, who cannot forget his female childhood friend whom he let die in an accident. Feeling that he must fulfill their promise of proving the existence of aliens, he has continuously looked up at the sky as a member of the astronomy club. One day, a girl named Neko Kuroha who looks exactly like his childhood friend appears as a transfer student. It turns out that she is a magic-user that has run away from a research lab.

## Haikyū!!

ハイキュー!!

Production I.G • April 6 • MBS/TBS

www.j-haikyu.com/anime/index.html

Shōyō Hinata is aiming to become the next "Small Giant" and joins his middle school volleyball club. After finding new members, they set out for the middle school tournament, where they've cross paths with a formidable school with the "King of the Upper Court," Tobio Kageyama. Although their team lost, Shōyō is still determined to aim for the top and exact revenge on Kageyama. Upon entering high school, he and Kageyama are on the same high school volleyball club!

## Isshūkan Friends. (One Week Friends)

一週間フレンズ。

Brain's Base • April 6 • Tokyo MX

oneweekfriends.com • youtu.be/-Bs0aMGH-R8

Kaori Fujimiya is always alone because all of her happy memories, including time spent with her friends, disappear every Monday. Deciding that he wants to be friends with her anyway, Yūki Hase tries to get close to Kaori each week, wishing that she would one day call him "a friend."

## Kanojō ga Flag wo Oraretara

彼女がフラグをおられたら

Hoods Entertainment • April 6 • Tokyo MX

www.gaworare-anime.com • youtu.be/99_pmjuI4j8

Standing at the crossroads of life; the important choices—"Flags." Hatate Sōta, a young man who can see these flags, transferred to "Hatagaya School," a prestigious school in the metropolitan area. Not only does he meet beautiful girls in his busy school life, he even goes as far as living with them under the same roof! Surrounded by these flags, this enviable romantic comedy begins!

## School Idol Project 2nd Season

ラブライブ! School idol project 2期

Sunrise • April 6 • Tokyo MX

www.lovelive-anime.jp

Honoka Kōsaka is a girl who loves her school, Otonokizaka Academy. When the school is planned to be closed down due to a lack of applicants, Honoka becomes determined to save it. Learning that school idols are popular, Honoka and her friends start up a school idol group called μ's (pronounced muse) in order to attract new students.

# Season *Continued*

## Yu-Gi-Ō! Arc-V

遊☆戯☆王ARC-V (アーク・ファイブ)
Studio Gallop, Nihon Ad Systems • April 6 • TV Tokyo
www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/yugioh-arcv/ • youtu.be/GiCQkNAAL0I
The series will follow new protagonist Yūya Sakaki, a second-year middle school student at the Leo Dueling School, the largest of its kind. The Leon Corporation, headed by Reiji Akaba, develops a new dueling system known as Action Duels, in which monsters are given mass and can interact with environments, that quickly reach worldwide popularity with Pro Duels. Yūya's life changes one day when he faces off in an exhibition match with the current Pro Duel champion.

## Dragon Collection

ドラゴンコレクション
April 7 • TV Tokyo
www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/oreca_dracolle/
Arata was just your normal high schooler, until one day when things started to move. He gets entangled in a phone game called "Dragon Collection." With his only redeeming quality being lucky, what can he do about conquering the World?

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

# Anime Schedule 2014 Spring

## Mangaka-san to Assistant-san to (The Comic Artist and His Assistants)

マンガ家さんとアシスタントさんと
Zexcs • April 7 • Tokyo MX
www.square-enix.co.jp/magazine/yg/introduction/manga/ • youtu.be/O0E-c7pkyO4
A life description about the mangaka Aito Yūki and his assistant Ashisu Sahoto. Aito-san doesn't understand the feelings of the characters in his stories. So he asks Ashisu to help him. Ashisu would do everything for the work. She would even grope her own breast so he will know how it feels like?!

## Monster Retsuden Oreca Battle

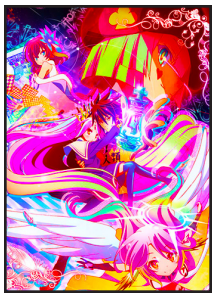
モンスター烈伝 オレカバトル
April 7 • TV Tokyo
www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/oreca_dracolle/
Fire, a boy who loves the Oreca competitions, is guided by the mysterious Pandora. Fire uncovers secrets as he battles with real Oreca monsters. Together with the Oreca Youth Scouts, Fire fights to take back the twelve dragons stolen by the devil king.

## Black Bullet

ブラック・ブレット
Kinema Citrus • April 8 • Tokyo MX/AT-X
www.black-bullet.net • youtu.be/pqzHE-Y6538
The year is 2021. Mankind was decimated by the epidemic of Gastrea, a parasitical virus, and is forced to live within Monoliths, which are created from Varanium: a metal that is able to subdue Gastrea. Soon, the "Cursed Children," children born with the Gastrea virus who are able to control it, which gives them superhuman abilities are discovered.

## Hitsugi no Chaika

棺姫のチャイカ
Bones • April 9 • Tokyo MX
chaika-anime.jp • youtu.be/jO7eXXIt8fA
Tōru Acura is a 20-year-old retired soldier meandering through life now that the war has ended. He encounters Chaika Trabant, a 14-year-old sorceress carrying a coffin and follows her in hopes of finding meaning to his life again. The two travel with Toru's adopted sister, Akari, the employed member of the group and thus Tōru's source of income.



## No Game No Life

ノーゲーム・ノーライフ
Madhouse • April 9 • AT-X
ngnl.jp • youtu.be/TqMCYf1FibU
The internet is full of rumors about the Neet and Hikikomori genius gamer siblings Sora and Shiro. The two go as far as to refer to the world as a "shit game," but then one day a young man calling himself "God" summons them to a parallel universe. God has forbidden war and "everything is to be settled with games." Yes, even the national borders. Driven into a corner by other species, the 'human species' is down to its last city.

# Season *Continued*

## Tenkai Knights

展開騎士

Bones • April 9 • TV Tokyo

www.tv-tokyo.co.jp/anime/tenkaiknight/

Eons ago, Quarton, populated by shapeshifting living bricks called Tenkai, was ravaged by a war between two factions: the Corekai and the Corrupted led by the ruthless warlord Vilius who desired to obtain the source of Tenkai Energy. The only ones who were strong enough to defeat him were the Tenkai Knights. The mighty Tenkai Dragon was defeated by the four Knights and its fragments were scattered across the planet. These heroes were never seen again.

## Escha & Logy no Atelier: Tasogare no Sora no Renkinjutsushi (Atelier Escha & Logy: Alchemists of the Dusk Sky)

エスカ&ロジーのアトリエ ～黄昏の空の錬金術士～

Studio Gokumi • April 10 • Tokyo MX

atelier-ps3.jp/escha-logy/anime/ • youtu.be/WNZVRVHJSyY

The game's story takes place about 4 years after the beginning of *Atelier Ayesha: The Alchemist of Dusk* in a far away place to the west of the Twilight Land. Because of "The End of Dusk," the people of the land have rediscovered the lost art of alchemy.

## Gochūmon wa Usagi Desu ka? (Is the Order a Rabbit?)

ご注文はうさぎですか?

White Fox • April 10 • Tokyo MX

www.gochiusa.com

Cocoa arrives at the cafe Rabbit House one day, excited for rabbits. She actually all but lives in that cafe. She meets lots of different girls there, including a tiny and cool girl named Chino, a tough and soldier-esque girl named Rize, a spacey and quintessentially Japanese girl named Chiyo, and the ordinary but dignified Sharo.

## Ryūgajō Nanana no Maizōkin (Nanana Ryūgajō's Buried Treasure)

龍ヶ嬢七々々の埋蔵金

A-1 Pictures • April 10 • Fuji TV

www.nanana.tv • youtu.be/DNgL9scpMnU

The story centers around the treasure of Nanana, a ghost who was once a beautiful but NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) girl. A boy named Jūgo was disowned by his father and forced to transfer to a high school on the "Special Student Zone." Jūgo chooses a low-rent apartment that happens to be haunted by Nanana. Jūgo and members of the school's adventure club join a "treasure hunt royale" on the island for the Nanana Collection.

## Sidonia no Kishi (Knights of Sidonia)

シドニアの騎士

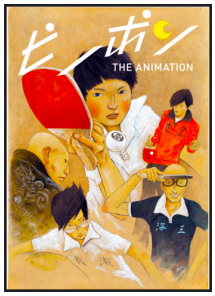
Polygon Pictures • April 10 • MBS/TBS

www.knightsofsidonia.com

A thousand years after humans flee from Earth, which was supposedly destroyed by shapeshifting gigantic alien monsters called Gauna, aboard massive spaceships created from the remains of the planet. One of said ships is Sidonia, which has developed its own human culture closely based on that of Japan. The story follows the exploits of Nagate Tanikaze, who lived in the underground layer of Sidonia since birth, raised by his grandfather.

Air dates and info are subject to change without notice. Some shows could appear on other channels on different times and days.

# Anime Schedule
# 2014 Spring Season *Continued*



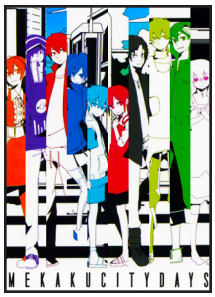

### Ping Pong The Animation

ピンポン THE ANIMATION

Tatsunoko Production • April 10 • Fuji TV

www.pingpong-anime.tv • tp://youtu.be/lmZVuMDlw-w

Tsukimoto Makoto (nicknamed Smile) is a quiet high-schooler who's been friend with the loud and energetic Hoshino Yukata (nicknamed Peko). They're both in the table tennis club and are very good at it, though Smile's personality prevents him from winning against Peko. The club teacher however notices Smile's talent and tries to make him gain some sportive tenacity.




### Mekaku City Actors

メカクシティアクターズ

Shaft • April 12 • Tokyo MX

www.mekakucityactors.com

A story based on the new popular series of songs by Jin (Shizen no Teki-P) titled "Kagerō Project." Shintaro Kisaragi—a HikiNEET who shut himself inside his room for 2 years—has been living his life normally until he met a cyber girl named Ene, who appeared in his computer screen when someone anonymously sent him a mysterious e-mail one year ago. One day, Ene had been messing up with Shintaro's PC which causes him have to go to outside world for first time in 2 years.

Gaming Cosplay Viewings Vendors Panels Dance

# KIGACON

# 企鵝

Musical performance
by Eien Strife!

Stop on by
for all things
ANIME!

## FREEMAN CENTER

## FRIDAY APRIL 11-SUNDAY APRIL 13

cnuanimecon.wordpress.com

# KAWAII KON

Hawaii's **LARGEST** anime convention

## 3 DAYS OF EVENTS

## WHEN?

**April 4-6, 2014**

Hawaii Convention Center

## FEATURING

Kakihara Tetsuya & Fujimura Ayumi

## LIVE CONCERT 6:30 PM SATURDAY BY HIRONOBU KAGEYAMA & YOKO ISHIDA

American Voice Actors for Korra, Winnie the Pooh, Darkwing Duck, Axel, Invader Zim, and more!

## TICKETS

**3 DAY** - Adult $55, Child $45

**2 DAY** - Adult $40, Child $30

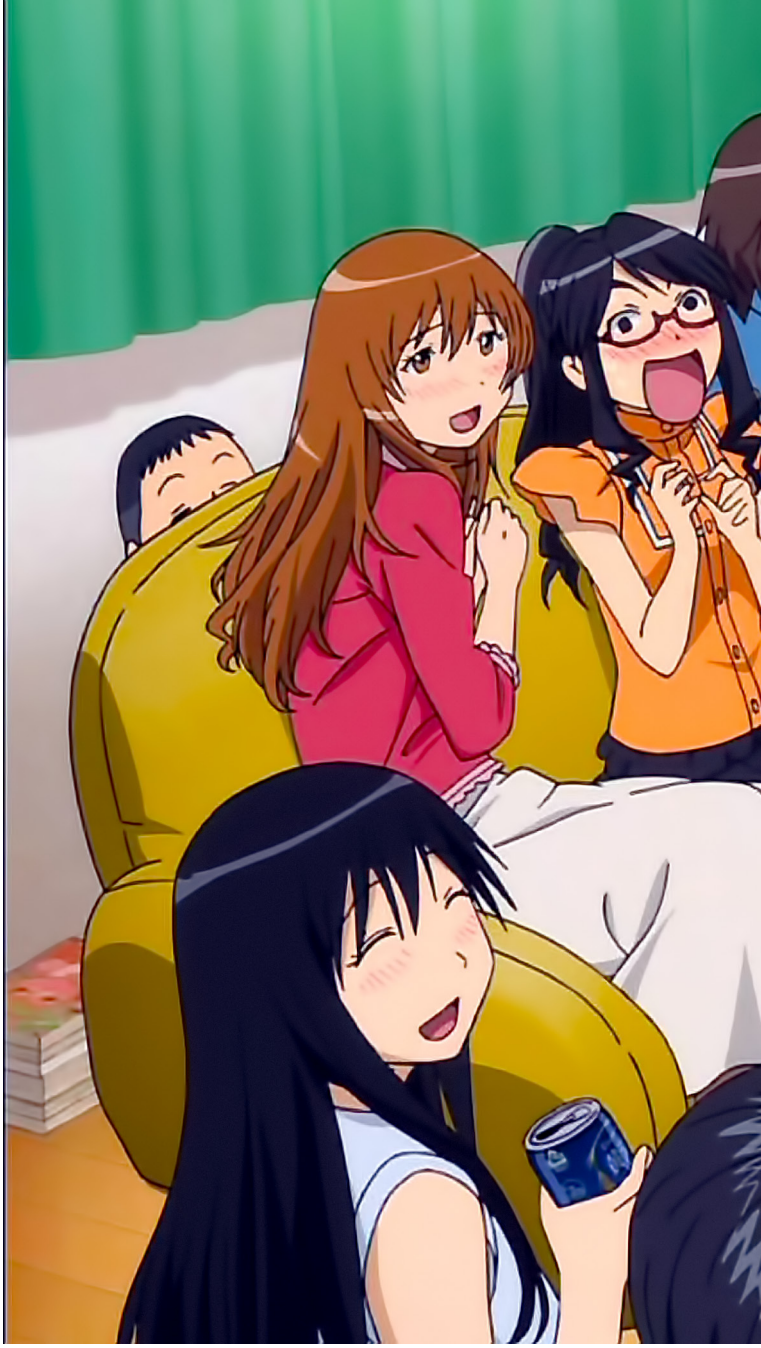
**1 DAY** - Friday $28, Saturday $32, Sunday $25

www.kawaiikon.com

de Ocampo, Angel James. Cartoon Beach 2010, 2010. Photograph. FlickrWeb, 14 Feb 2014.

momozon.co.jp
げんしけん
二代目
THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF MODERN VISUAL CULTURE

"I often find myself puzzled by the anime industry's undying obsession with high school. Genre or story appear to have no influence—teenagers are here, there and just about everywhere else. It is rare to find an adult (or any character above the age of 17) unless they are filling the obligatory teacher or villain role. Which is a bummer, as titles like *Genshiken* show just how fun the university setting can be."



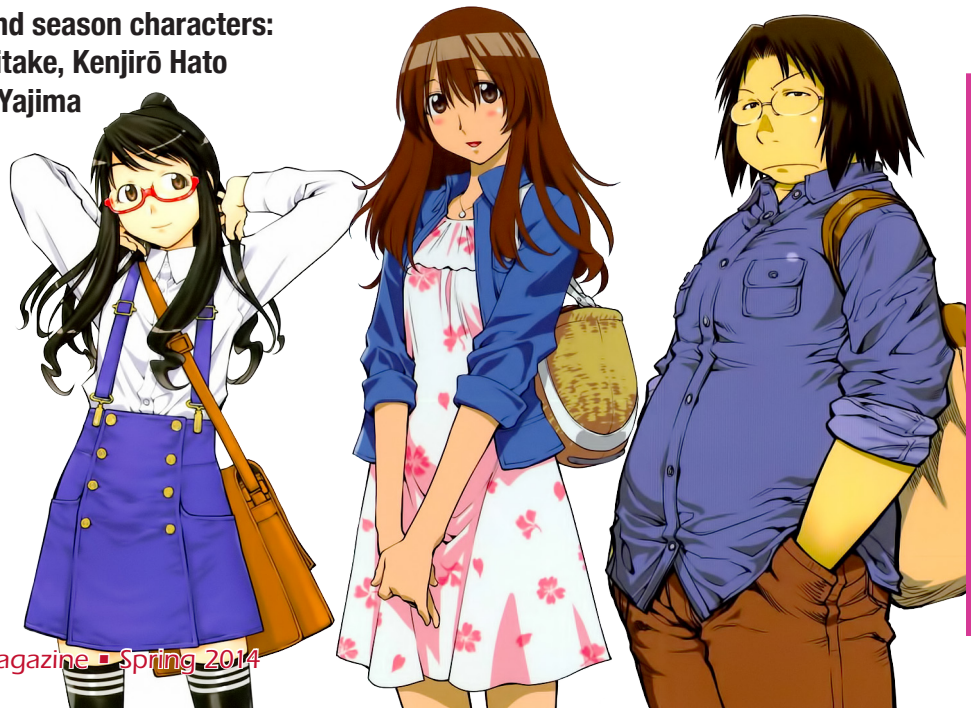
Coming after two full seasons, *Genshiken: Nidaime* might seem confusing or out of place. The characters' voices have changed. Nearly everyone from the main series has graduated and moved on with their lives. The identity of the anime club has shifted from a male-dominated space to a fujoshi-dominated one, pushing major characters into minor (sometimes non-existent) roles. Still, *Nidaime* is the same old Genshiken that we've come to enjoy. It may have a new coat of paint, and sure, a few extra screws loose, but everything that was great about the original *Genshiken* remains—and more still. Change doesn't always have to be a bad thing.

The story of *Nidaime* follows Ogiue (now club president) and the horde of freshmen who (perhaps inadvertently) find themselves pulled into the Genshiken club. Most notable of whom is Hato, a male BL fan who…well, cross-dresses as a woman. Almost too convincingly, as he seems to have no problem pulling off a female voice.

Assuming you aren't a fan of effeminate males or BL, this will inevitably set off warning signals in your mind. Has Genshiken now turned into an anime for yaoi fangirls? Not exactly. Whereas the previous seasons focused almost entirely on the moe and yuri fandom, *Nidaime* merely flips that around and shows us the otaku subculture from the female perspective. Very, very rarely do we see that in anime. It quickly becomes apparent that, hey, males and females aren't all that different when it comes to enjoying nerdy hobbies. Even if you have zero interest in understanding the BL fandom, *Nidaime's* characters are still cute enough to appease both sides of the audience. Male viewers have just as much to enjoy here.

That aside, Hato's character is written

**New second season characters: Rika Yoshitake, Kenjirō Hato and Mirei Yajima**



**Genshiken Nidaime**
**(Genshiken Second Season)**
**げんしけん二代目**

TV • July 7 - September 29, 2013
Production I.G.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genshiken
www.genshiken.info

**Director:** Mizushima, Tsutomu
**Writer:** Yokote, Michiko

**Cast:**
Yoshitake, Rika = Uesaka, Sumire
Yajima, Mirei = Uchiyama, Yumi
Hato, Kenjirō = Yamamoto, Kazutomi (M)
Kakuma, Ai (F)
Ogiue, Chika = Yamamoto, Nozomi
Ōno, Kanako = Yukana
Susanna Hopkins = Ōzora, Naomi
Kuchiki, Manabu = Fukuyama, Jun

with a surprising amount of maturity. He could very easily have been a vehicle for pandering, but he is not. There is a genuine reason for why he cross-dresses in the company of female otaku. Hato's friendship with Madarame also proves an interesting view on sexuality, as god knows how many anime would start and end his characterization at "jk lol, he actually has a penis."

Speaking of Madarame, anyone who enjoyed him in the previous seasons (I'm sure there's more than a few) will find much to like in *Nidaime*. There is no shortage of him here. Sure, while Madarame's scenes may lack the usual craziness of his character, there is instead a much greater satisfaction in learning that he is an ordinary person like anyone else. He finally finds closure to his feelings for Kasukabe and while *Genshiken's* strong point has surely never been its drama, the scene where Madarame finally confesses to her is easily the most powerful moment in the entire series. The drama works well here because it is not overused. It knows its place.

The only real issue with the characterization is that while Hato, Madarame and Ogiue receive plenty of focus, the rest of the cast (both new and old) are relegated to the background. Sue, Yoshitake and Yajima are just along for the ride, occasionally adding to the conversation or having a funny moment here and there. Most importantly, what the heck's going on with Sasahara's new job as a manga editor? We never got to see what happened with him after the end of the second season. I suppose this is for the better, though, since splitting 13 episodes between a massive cast of characters would undoubtedly lead to nasty results. As for Kuchi, well…you know what to expect from him.

*Nidaime* perfectly captures the otaku subculture that it is rooted in. Rather than parody it like *Lucky Star* or critique it like *OreImo*, *Genshiken* seeks instead to provide a realistic portrayal of the otaku lifestyle. Because the characters are adults capable of doing their own thing (unlike the billions of high school anime), we get a detailed look at cosplay, conventions and even what it is like to sell ero-manga at Comiket. I have never had any interest in interacting with anime fans outside of the internet, but *Genshiken* has me thinking that it might not be such a bad idea after all. For the most part, anyway.

The visual quality is surely nothing that will blow your mind, but it is well above the average anime. The character designs look a bit more 'modern' now, though whether that is a downgrade or not depends entirely on personal preference. The added colour is also a nice change as I always found the previous seasons to be visually bland.

More impressive is the audio. The opening and ending songs are stellar, effectively conveying the light-hearted atmosphere of the series and continually bringing a smile each time they played. The biggest issue that people will have with *Nidaime* is the change in seiyū, but after a few episodes it ceases to be noticeable. I actually thought that Ogiue's seiyū was the same as before because it fit her character so well.

*Genshiken: Nidaime* is a joy to watch from start to finish. Rather than be complacent as "just another *Genshiken* season," *Nidaime* takes the series a step further by realising the full potential of the setting. There is a sense of maturity to the dialogue and characterization that so few anime have managed to accomplish. It is truly the anime industry's strongest portrayal of the otaku subculture and a damn good show in its own right.

Hey, Japan, can we have more anime like *Genshiken*? ❖ Sheldon Eyzenga

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014

**An Innocent Relationship, Vol. 2††**
*Takumi Kobayashi*
Project-H, LLC.
Mar 25

**Are You Alice?, Vol. 4**
*Ikumi Katagiri*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**Bloody Brat, Vol. 1**
*Yūki Kodama, Kanata Yoshino*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**Bloody Cross, Vol. 2**
*Shiwo Komeyama*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**Deadlock, Vol. 1†**
*Yū Takashina, Saki Aida*
Digital Manga Publishing
Mar 25

**Drifters, Vol. 3**
*Kōta Hirano*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Mar 25

**Fairy Tail, Vol. 36**
*Hiro Mashima*
Kodansha Comics
Mar 25

**Kingdom Hearts 358/2 Days, Vol. 3**
*Shiro Amano*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**Mobile Suit Gundam: THE ORIGIN, Vol. 5**
*Yasuhiko Yoshikazu, Yoshiyuki Tomino, hAJIME Yatate*
Vertical, Inc.
Mar 25

**Happy, Erza Scarlet, Lucy Heartfilia, Natsu Dragneel & Gray Fullbuster — Fairy Tail**

The information in this section is as accurate as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. Titles and their titles for mature audiences 18+.

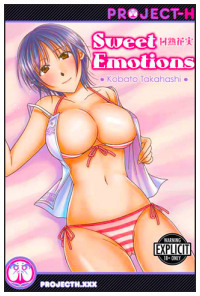
# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Puella Magi Madoka Magica: The Different Story, Vol. 1**
*Magica Quartet, Hanokage*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**See Me After Class, Vol. 2††**
*Munyu*
Project-H, LLC.
Mar 25

**Soul Eater, Vol. 19**
*Atsushi Ōkubo*
Yen Press
Mar 25



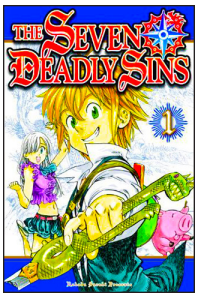

**Sweet Emotions††**
*Kobato Takahashi*
Project-H, LLC.
Mar 25

**Sword Art Online: Aincrad**
*Reki Kawahara, Tamako Nakamura*
Yen Press
Mar 25

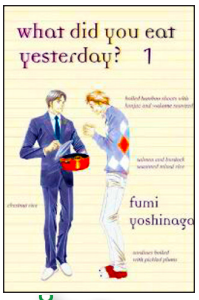
**The Incredible Kintaro†**
*Naomi Guren*
801 Media, Inc.
Mar 25

**Ichigo Kurosaki — Bleach**

**The Parasite Doctor Suzume, Vol. 2††**
*Haruki*
Project-H, LLC.
Mar 25




**The Seven Deadly Sins, Vol. 1**
*Nakaba Suzuki*
Kodansha Comics
Mar 25

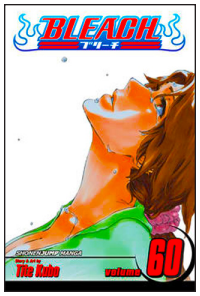



**What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Vol. 1†**
*Fumi Yoshinaga*
Vertical, Inc.
Mar 25

**Wife In Short Shorts††**
*Akinao*
Project-H, LLC.
Mar 25

**Wolf Children: Ame & Yuki**
*Mamoru Hosoda, Yū*
Yen Press
Mar 25

**Alice in the Country of Clover: Nightmare**
*QuinRose, Yobu*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 1




**Bleach, Vol. 60**
*Tite Kubo*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Dance in the Vampire Bund Omnibus 5**
*Nozomu Tamaki*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 1

**Dictatorial Grimoire: Red Riding Hood, Vol. 3**
*Ayumi Kanō*
Seven Seas Entertainment
Apr 1

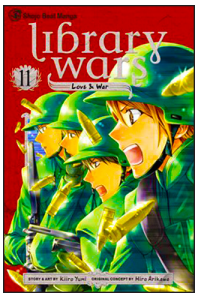
**Dim Sum Warriors, Vol. 2: Feast of Fury TP**
*Colin Goh, Yenyen Woo, Soo Lee*
Yumcha Studios, LLC.
Apr 1

**Dragon Ball Full Color, Vol. 2**
*Akira Toriyama*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Hana-Kimi (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 8**
*Hisaya Nakajō*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Happy Marriage?!, Vol. 5**
*Maki Enjōji*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Hunter x Hunter, Vol. 32**
*Yoshihiro Togashi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1




**Library Wars: Love & War, Vol. 11**
*Kiiro Yumi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Naruto: Hashirama and Madara, Vol. 65**
*Masashi Kishimoto*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan, Vol. 20**
*Hiroshi Shiibashi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Strike Witches: Maidens in the Sky, Vol. 2**
*Humikane Shimada, Yūki Tanaka*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 1

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.† Yaoi and†† hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Sweet Rein, Vol. 2**
*Sakura Tsukuba*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

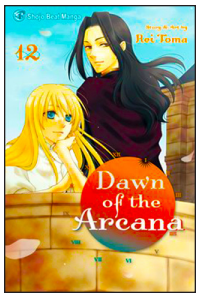
**Toriko, Vol. 21: Showdown at Chowlin Temple**
*Mitsutoshi Shimabukuro*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Voice Over!: Seiyu Academy, Vol. 4**
*Maki Minami*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 1

**Case Closed, Vol. 50**
*Gōshō Aoyama*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 8

**Castle Mango, Vol. 2†**
*Muku Ogura, Narise Konohara*
Digital Manga Publishing
Apr 8

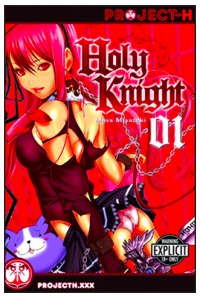
**Crimson Spell, Vol. 3†**
*Ayano Yamane*
SuBLime
Apr 8




**Dawn of the Arcana, Vol. 12**
*Rei Toma*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 8

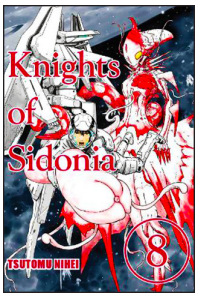
**Deadman Wonderland, Vol. 2**
*Jinsei Kataoka, Kazuma Kondō*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 8

**Eden: It's an Endless World, Vol. 14**
*Hiroki Endō*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Apr 8



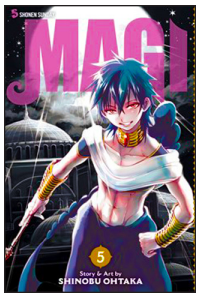

**Holy Knight, Vol. 1††**
*Maya Miyazaki*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8

**Itsuwaribito, Vol. 11**
*Yūki Iinuma*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 8




**Knights of Sidonia, Vol. 8**
*Tsutomu Nihei*
Vertical, Inc.
Apr 8

**Late Bloomers††**
*Ahiru Okano*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8




**Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic, Vol. 5**
*Shinobu Ōtaka*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 8

**My Pretty Idol Girlfriend††**
*Rumi Matsunami*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8

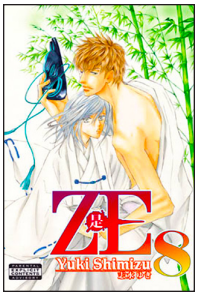
**Morgiana, Alibaba Saluja & Aladdin — Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic**



**Nurse's Secrets††**
*Takuma Harazaki*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8

**Nyotai-ka!, Vol. 2††**
*Ru-en Rouga*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8

**Splash To Love, Vol. 1††**
*Kubukurin*
Project-H, LLC.
Apr 8



**Ze, Vol. 8†**
*Yuki Shimizu*
801 Media, Inc.
Apr 8

**A Certain Scientific Railgun, Vol. 9**
*Kazuma Kamachi, Motoi Fuyukawa*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 15

**Afterschool Charisma, Vol. 9**
*Kumiko Suekane*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 15

**Amazing Agent Luna, Vol. 10**
*Nunzio DeFilippis, Christina Weir, Shiei*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 15

**Devils and Realist, Vol. 1**
*Madoka Takadono, Utako Yukihiro*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 15

**Dorohedoro, Vol. 12**
*Q Hayashida*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 15

**Fairy Tail, Vol. 37**
*Hiro Mashima*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 15
Not Actual Cover

**Lone Wolf and Cub Omnibus, Vol. 4**
*Kazuo Koike, Goseki Kojima*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Apr 15

**Love in Hell, Vol. 3**
*Reiji Suzumaru*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 15

**Missions of Love, Vol. 7**
*Ema Tōyama*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 15
Not Actual Cover

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.†yaoi and††hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

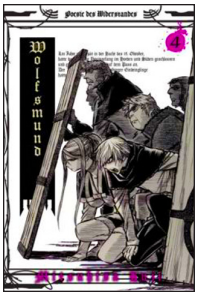
# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Neon Genesis Evangelion: The Shinji Ikari Detective Diary, Vol. 2**
*Takumi Yoshimura*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Apr 15

**No. 6, Vol. 6**
*Atsuko Asano, Hinoki Kino*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 15

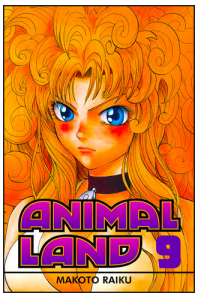
**Sunny, Vol. 3**
*Taiyo Matsumoto*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Apr 15




**Wolfsmund, Vol. 4**
*Mitsuhisa Kuji*
Vertical, Inc.
Apr 15

**Ririchiyo Shirakiin & Sōshi Miketsukami — Inu x Boku SS**

**World War Blue, Vol. 5**
*Anastasia Shestakova, Crimson*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Apr 15




**Animal Land, Vol. 9**
*Makoto Raiku*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 22

**Inu x Boku SS, Vol. 3**
*Cocoa Fujiwara*
Yen Press
Apr 22

**Bunny Drop, Vol. 10**
*Yumi Unita*
Yen Press
Apr 22

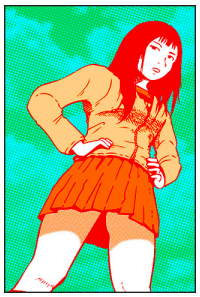
**Flowers of Evil, Vol. 9**
*Shūzō Oshimi*
Vertical, Inc.
Apr 22
Not Actual Cover

**No Matter How I Look at It, It's You Guys' Fault I'm Not Popular!, Vol. 3**
*Nico Tanigawa*
Yen Press
Apr 22

**Spice and Wolf, Vol. 11: Side Colors II**
*Isuna Hasekura*
Yen Press
Apr 22

**Sword Art Online, Vol. 1: Aincrad (Novel)**
*Reki Kawahara*
Yen Press
Apr 22

**Umineko WHEN THEY CRY Episode 3: Banquet of the Golden Witch, Vol. 2**
*Ryukishi07, Kei Natsumi*
Yen Press
Apr 22

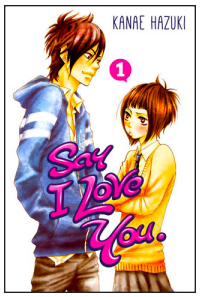


**Alive**
*Hajime Taguchi*
Gen Manga Entertainment
Apr 29
Not Actual Cover

**Attack on Titan, Vol. 12**
*Hajime Isayama*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 29

**Cardfight!! Vanguard, Vol. 1**
*Akira Itō*
Vertical, Inc.
Apr 29
Not Actual Cover

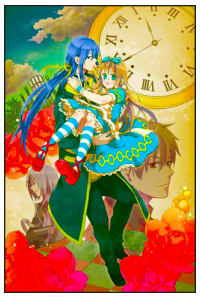
**Sankarea, Vol. 6**
*Mitsuru Hattori*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 29




**Say I Love You., Vol. 1**
*Kanae Hazuki*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 29

**Vinland Saga, Vol. 3**
*Makoto Yukimura*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 29

**xxxHOLiC Rei, Vol. 1**
*CLAMP*
Kodansha Comics
Apr 29



**Alice in the Country of Hearts: Love Labyrinth of Thorns**
*QuinRose, Riko Sakura*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 6
Not Actual Cover

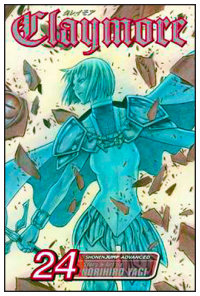
**Bleach (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 8**
*Tite Kubo*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. Yaoi and hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Bride of the Water God, Vol. 15**
*Yun Mi-Kyung*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
May 6




**Claymore, Vol. 24**
*Norihiro Yagi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Gantz, Vol. 31**
*Hiroya Oku*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
May 6

**High School Debut (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 2**
*Kazune Kawahara*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Mayo Chiki!, Vol. 6**
*Hajime Asano, Neet*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 6
Not Actual Cover

**Midnight Secretary, Vol. 5**
*Tomu Ōmi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Monster Musume, Vol. 3**
*OKAYADO*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 6
Not Actual Cover

**Naruto (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 8**
*Masashi Kishimoto*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Nisekoi: False Love, Vol. 3: What's in a Name?**
*Naoshi Komi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Otomen, Vol. 18**
*Aya Kanno*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Phantom Thief Jeanne, Vol. 2**
*Arina Tanemura*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6
Not Actual Cover

**Psyren, Vol. 16**
*Toshiaki Iwashiro*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Ranma ½ (2-in-1 Edition), Vol. 2**
*Rumiko Takahashi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Strobe Edge, Vol. 10**
*Io Sakisaka*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6
Not Actual Cover

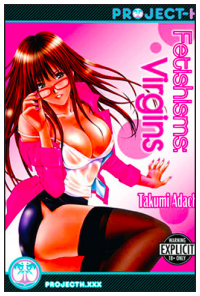
**Vampire Knight, Vol. 18**
*Matsuri Hino*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 6

**Zero's Familiar: Chevalier, Vol. 1**
*Noboru Yamaguchi, Yukari Higa*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 6

**07-GHOST, Vol. 10**
*Yuki Amemiya, Yukino Ichihara*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 13

**Dinner at the Shimoedas††**
*Ayumi Miyahara*
Project-H, LLC.
May 13

**Fairy Tail, Vol. 38**
*Hiro Mashima*
Kodansha Comics
May 13



**Fetishisms: Virgins††**
*Takumi Adachi*
Project-H, LLC.
May 13

**From the New World, Vol. 4**
*Yusuke Kishi, Tōru Ōikawa*
Vertical, Inc.
May 13

**Goddess of the Glass, Vol. 2††**
*Mizuki Asamori*
Project-H, LLC.
May 13



**Monster Soul, Vol. 1**
*Hiro Mashima*
Kodansha Comics
May 13

**Otodama: Voice from the Dead, Vol. 2†**
*Yōka Nitta*
Digital Manga Publishing
May 13

**Our Little Secret††**
*Ryu Shinonome*
Project-H, LLC.
May 13

**Kosaki Onodera — Nisekoi**

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. Yaoi and hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Sex Toys††**
*Shō Aoi*
Project-H, LLC.
May 13

**Sherlock Bones, Vol. 5**
*Yuma Ando*
Kodansha Comics
May 13

**The Seven Deadly Sins, Vol. 2**
*Nakaba Suzuki*
Kodansha Comics
May 13

**Whispered Words**
*Takashi Ikeda*
One Peace Books
May 13

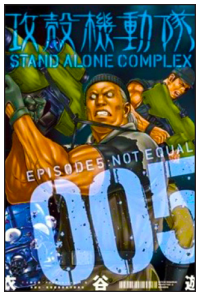
**Air Gear Omnibus, Vol. 3**
*Oh! great*
Kodansha Comics
May 20




**Dragonar Academy, Vol. 2**
*Shiki Mizuchi, Ran*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
May 20

**Silvia Lautreamon — Dragonar Academy**

**Gangsta., Vol. 2**
*Kohske*
VIZ Media, LLC.
May 20

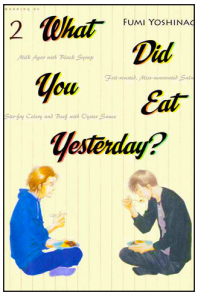



**Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex, Vol. 5**
*Yu Kinutani*
Kodansha Comics
May 20
Not Actual Cover

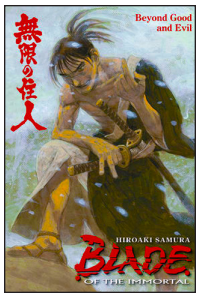
**Kanokon Omnibus, Vols. 7-9**
*Kastumi Nishino,*
*Rin Yamaki*
Seven Seas
Entertainment, LLC.
May 20

**My Boyfriend is a Vampire, Vols. 13-14**
*Han Yu-Rang*
Seven Seas
Entertainment, LLC.
May 20

**Trigun Maximum Omnibus, Vol. 3**
*Yasuhiro Nightō*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
May 20




**What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Vol. 2**
*Fumi Fumi Yoshinaga*
Vertical, Inc.
May 20
Not Actual Cover




**Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 29:**
*Hiroaki Samura*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
May 27

**BTOOOM!, Vol. 6**
*Junya Inoue*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**Cage of Eden, Vol. 14**
*Yoshinobu Yamada*
Kodansha Comics
May 27
Not Actual Cover

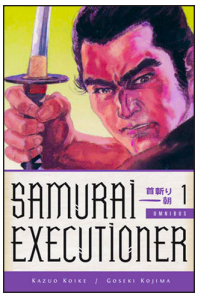
**Goong, Vol. 15: The Royal Palace**
*So Hee Park*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**High School DxD, Vol. 1**
*Hiroji Mishima,*
*Zero Miyama,*
*Ichiei Ishibumi*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**Jack Frost, Vol. 10**
*JinHo Ko*
Yen Press
May 27

**My Little Monster, Vol. 2**
*Robico*
Kodansha Comics
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**Puella Magi Kazumi Magica: The Innocent Malice, Vol. 5**
*Masaki Hiramatsu,*
*Takashi Tensugi*
Yen Press
May 27




**Samurai Executioner Omnibus, Vol. 1**
*Kazuo Koike,*
*Goseki Kojima*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
May 27

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. Yaoi and hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Soul Eater, Vol. 20**
*Atsushi Ōkubo*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya, Vol. 18**
*Nagaru Tanigawa*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**The Wallflower, Vol. 32**
*Tomoko Hayakawa*
Kodansha Comics
May 27

**Triage X, Vol. 6**
*Shōji Satō*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

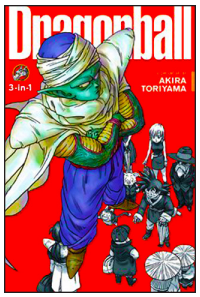
**Until Death Do Us Part, Vol. 6**
*Hiroshi Takashige, DOUBLE-S*
Yen Press
May 27
Not Actual Cover

**Itazura Na Kiss, Vol. 10**
*Kaoru Tada*
Digital Manga Publishing
May 28

**A Centaur's Life, Vol. 3**
*Kei Murayama*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 3

**Alice in the Country of Joker: Circus and Liars Game, Vol. 5**
*QuinRose, Mamenosuke Fujimaru*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 3

**Dengeki Daisy, Vol. 14**
*Kyōsuke Motomi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3



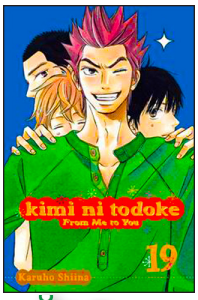

**Dragon Ball (3-in-1 Edition), Vol. 5**
*Akira Toriyama*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Dragon Ball Full Color, Vol. 3: Saiyan Arc**
*Akira Toriyama*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Girls Und Panzer, Vol. 1**
*Girls Und Panzer Projekt, Ryōichi Saitaniya*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 3

**Happy Marriage?!, Vol. 6**
*Maki Enjōji*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Kamisama Kiss, Vol. 15**
*Julietta Suzuki*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3



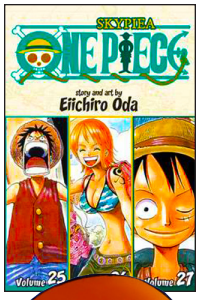

**Kimi ni Todoke: From Me to You, Vol. 19**
*Karuho Shiina*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Knights of Sidonia, Vol. 9**
*Tsutomu Nihei*
Vertical, Inc.
Jun 3
Not Actual Cover

**Millennium Snow (2-in-1), Vol. 1**
*Bisco Hatori*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 16**
*Yuki Midorikawa*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Nura: Rise of the Yokai Clan, Vol. 21**
*Hiroshi Shiibashi*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3




**One Piece: Skypeia 25-26-27, Vol. 9 (Omnibus Edition)**
*Eiichirō Oda*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Seraph of the End, Vol. 1**
*Takaya Kagami, Daisuke Furuya, Yamato Yamamoto*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Anglerfish Team: Saori Takebe, Miho Nishizumi, Yukari Akiyama, Hana Isuzu & Mako Reizei — Girls ünd Panzer**

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice. †Yaoi and ††hentai titles for mature audiences 18+.

# Manga Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

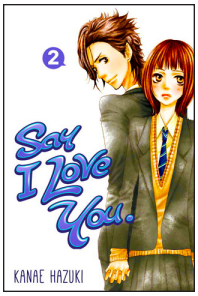
**Voice Over!: Seiyu Academy, Vol. 5**
*Maki Minami*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 3

**Android Angels**
*Kosuke Kabaya*
Gen Manga Entertainment
Jun 10

**Arata: The Legend, Vol. 18**
*Yū Watase*
VIZ Media, LLC.
Jun 10

**Fate/Complete Material, Vol.1: Art Material**
*Type Moon*
Udon Entertainment
Jun 10

**Mobile Suit Gundam: THE ORIGIN, Vol. 6**
*Yashuhiko Yoshikazu, Yoshiyuki Tomino, hAJIME Yatate*
Vertical, Inc.
Jun 10
Not Actual Cover




**Say I Love You., Vol. 2**
*Kanae Hazuki*
Kodansha Comics
Jun 10

**Takasugi-San's Obento, Vol. 2**
*Nozomi Yanahara*
Digital Manga Publishing
Jun 10

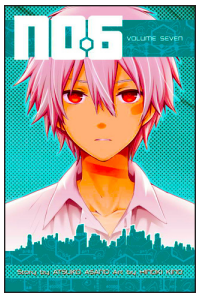
**Dance in the Vampire Bund: Forgotten Tales**
*Nozomu Tamaki*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 17
Not Actual Cover

**Fairy Tail, Vol. 39**
*Hiro Mashima*
Kodansha Comics
Jun 17

**Gakuen Polizi, Vol. 1**
*Morinaga Milk*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 17

**Haganai: I Don't Have Many Friends, Vol. 7**
*Yomi Hirasaka, Itachi*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 17

**New Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 1**
*Kazuo Koike, Hideki Mori*
Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
Jun 17




**No. 6, Vol. 7**
*Atsuko Asano*
Kodansha Comics
Jun 17

**Strike Witches: The Sky That Connects Us**
*Humikane Shimada, Yūki Tanaka*
Seven Seas Entertainment, LLC.
Jun 17

**xxxHOLiC Omnibus 2**
*CLAMP*
Kodansha Comics
Jun 17

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## a film about cosplayers

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MY OTHER ME

Newcastle-Con 2014

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## Kyle Hebert

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-

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-

YuGiOh! Tournament

-

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Pastel Doll

Shadowrealm Tournaments

ZOUK Newcastle

Ken 道

northumbria

Mamak Corner

The River Versus

tea sutra

HiYoU 百分百超市

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Ronin Anime DVD

StreetPass Newcastle

Paper Cranes

The Rubber Pineapple

APG AniPopGam

Spanky Spangler Steampunk Creations

Lacy May Illustration

KEEP CALM AND is that YAOI?!

Faye Stacey Illustration

Charly Von Karma Fangirl Artist
charlyvonkarma.com

# Anime Character Information

Art by Duffyknight2005

## April Birthdays

**1**

Sekidōsai
*Inukami*

**2**

Yūki, Kanade
*Fortune Arterial*

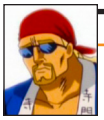
**3**

Sagara, Misae
*Clannad*

**7**

Mizuno, Katsuo
*Tennis no Ōjisama*

Sado, Yasutora
*Bleach*



**9**

Taka-tin
*Gintama*

**11**

Aozaki, Tōko
*Kara no Kyōkai*

**12**

Homura, Nagi
*Mai HiME*

**13**

Sharon Rainsworth
*Pandora Hearts*

**14**

Imadori, Kyōusuke
*School Rumble*

**15**

Shudō, Satoshi
*Tennis no Ōjisama*

**16**

Giorno Giovanna
*JoJo's Bizarre Adventures*

**18**

Momoe, Maria
*Ōkiku Furikabutte*

Watari, Yutaka
*Yami no Matsuei*

**19**

Erica Hartmann
*Strike Witches*

Kakōen, Myōsai
*Ikkitōsen*

Yagyū, Kyūbe
*Gintama*

**20**

Gokō, Ruri (Kuroneko)
*Ore no Imōto ga Konna ni Kawaii Wake ga Nai*

Shirae, Rinsen
*Shikabane Hime: Aka*

**26**

Tsuboi, Takako
*Full Metal Panic!*

**27**

Satō, Yō
*Ben-To*

Suzuki, Ikuyo
*Hanaukyō Maid-tai*

Usui ,Takumi
*Kaichō wa Maid-sama!*

**30**

Sagisawa, Yōko
Mai-HiME

The information presented here is as accurate as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

# May Birthdays

**1**
Akimichi, Chōji
*Naruto*

**4**
Tsunami
*Naruto*

**5**
Semyon Brezhnev
*Durarara!!*

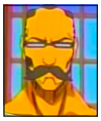
Hirako, Shinji
*Bleach*

**6**
Kurosaki, Karin
*Bleach*

**7**
Hanai, Haruki
*School Rumble*

**9**
Kido, Madoka
*School Rumble*

**12**
Takase, Mizuki
*Comic Party*



Tsukabishi, Tessai
*Bleach*

Yotsuba, Satsuki
*Mahō Sensei Negima!*

**14**
Kanakubo, Homare
*Starry Sky*

**15**
Nishizawa Ayumu
*Hayate no Gotoku!*

**17**
Mihashi, Ren
*Ōkiku Furikabutte*

**20**
Asagami, Fujino
*Kara no Kyōkai*

Kinomoto, Nadesiko
*Card Captor Sakura*

Konoe, Nanami
*Lamune*

**21**
Yamada
*B Gata H Kei*

**25**
Asuka, Ryōko
*Beelzebub*

Sotomura, Misuzu
*Ichigo 100%*

**26**
Ōkōchi, Akira
*Mahō Sensei Negima!*

**28**
Asagiri, Kaname
*Ōkami Kakushi*

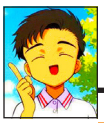
Izumi, Konata
*Lucky Star*

**29**
Aizen, Sousuke
*Bleach*

Fuwa, Shōtarō
*Skip Beat!*

# June Birthdays

**1**
Kuranaga, Kozue
*Yosuga no Sora*



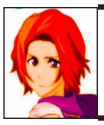
Yamazaki, Takashi
*Card Captor Sakura*

**2**
Ada Vessalius
*Pandora Hearts*

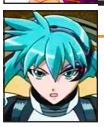
**5**
Tomoe, Mami
*Mahō Shōjo Madok Magica*

**7**
Mikami, Teru
*Death Note*

**9**
Hitachiin, Kaoru
*Ōran Kōkō Host Club*



Kurosaki, Masaki
*Bleach*

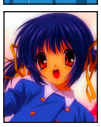


**10**
Meia Gisborn
*Vandread*

Satella Harvenheit
*Chrno Crusade*

**11**
Lynette Bishop
*Strike Witches*

Kati Mannequin
*Kidō Senshi Gundam 00*



Sunohara, Mei
*Clannad*

**12**
Sanjō, Yukari
*Shugo Chara*

**13**
Yagiri, Seiji
*Durarara!!*

**15**
Miyakawa, Hinata
*Lucky Star*

**18**
Kojima, Yoshiyuki
*Chobits*

**19**
Kida, Masaomi
*Durarara!!*

**21**
Segawa, Izumi
*Hayate no Gotoku!*

**22**
Szayel Aporro Granz
*Bleach*

**24**
Hōjō, Satoko
*Higurashi no Naku Koro Ni*

Sasaki, Rika
*Card Captor Sakura*

**25**
Megpoid GUMI
*VOCALOID*

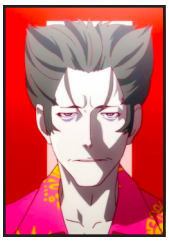
**27**
Alexei
*Saint Seiya*

**29**
Chinen, Hiroshi
*Tennis no Ōjisama*

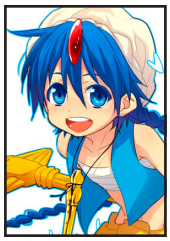
# Top Male Ranking†

**1**
**Araragi, Koyomi**
**阿良々木 暦**
*Monogatari Series*

**2**
**Kira Yamato**
**キラ・ヤマト**
*Kidō Senshi Gundam SEED*

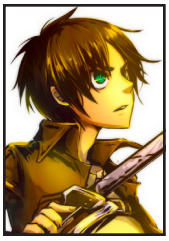


**3**
**Kaiki, Deishū**
**貝木 泥舟**
*Monogatari Series*



**4**
**Alladin**
**アラジン**
*Magi: The Labyrinth of Magic*

**5**
**Kirigaya, Kazuto**
**桐ヶ谷 和人**
*Sword Art Online*



**6**
**Eren Jaeger**
**エレン・イェーガー**
*Shingeki no Kyojin*

**7**
**Lelouch Lamperouge**
**ルルーシュ・ランペルージ**
*Code Geass: Hangyaku no Lelouch*

**8**
**Oda Nobunaga**
**オダ・ノブナガ**
*Nobunaga the Fool*

**9**
**Shiroe**
**シロエ**
*Log Horizon*

**10**
**Producer**
**プロデューサー**
*THE iDOLM@STER*

# Top Female Ranking†

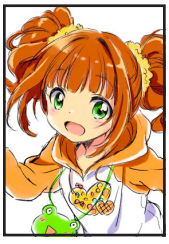
**1**
**Amami, Haruka**
**天海 春香**
*THE iDOLM@STER*

**2**
**Kisaragi, Chihaya**
**如月 千早**
*THE iDOLM@STER*

**3**
**Mikasa Ackerman**
**ミカサ・アッカーマン**
*Shingeki no Kyojin*

**4**
**Saber Arturia Pendragon**
**セイバー・アルトリア・ペンドラゴン**
*Fate/zero*

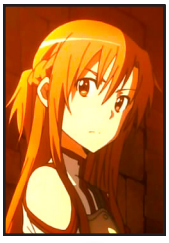
**5**
**Super Sonico**
**すーぱーそに子**
*SoniAni: Super Sonico The Animation*



**6**
**Takatsuki, Yayoi**
**高槻 やよい**
*THE iDOLM@STER*

**7**
**Hanekawa, Tsubasa**
**羽川 翼**
*Monogatari Series*

**8**
**Akemi, Homura**
**暁美 ほむら**
*Mahō Shōjo Madoka Magika*



**9**
**Yūki, Asuna**
**結城 明日奈**
*Sword Art Online*

**10**
**Oshino, Shinobu**
**忍野 忍**
*Monogatari Series*

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# SHUTO CON

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# WCS US Eastern Qualifer with Last Minute Cosplay

By Greg Hansen with Laura Butler and Last Minute Cosplay

On Sunday, February 16, the World Cosplay Summit Eastern Qualifiers took place at Katsucon 20 in National Harbor, MD. This was the events third year at Katsucon. Even with the difficult weather, eight teams persevered and made it to the competition with Bejitaballz chosen as the winner, with skit and costumes inspired by *Soul Calibur 2*. Binkx portrayed Sophitia Alexandra with Mike accompanying her as Nightmare/Siegfried.

They will be heading to Anime Central (ACen) in Rosemont, IL to compete in the 2014 WCS US Finals Round with wild cards Kirayume and Kiwi Teacup. Bejitaballz and other teams from around the country will be competing for a chance to travel to Japan as the United States' representative team, and have the opportunity to meet cosplay teams from all over the world.

Kiwi Teacup Cosplay

Photography by LJinto

Katsucon 2014 Winners

Shikijo Cosplay

Photography by LJinto

**Last Minute Cosplay's Shey and Tohma are becoming a familiar face at the World Cosplay Summit US rounds, and we are always excited to see what they bring to the stage. They have been growing stronger and stronger as competitors, and it's the unique opportunity of World Cosplay Summit as well as the supportive atmosphere of their fellow cosplayers that inpsire them to push harder and harder with each naew year. We asked them a few questions about cosplay and their endeavors with World Cosplay Summit.**

Photography by Starrfall

## Q: Tell us about your team?

A: We both attended the same college and met through mutual friends in the anime club. Our first convention together was 2003 but we have been competing and cosplaying together since 2005. We actually live six hours apart but we do our best to coordinate despite the distance. We have a (perhaps unhealthy) obsession with Tsubasa and have created over 40 costumes from the series between the two of us. We also enjoy ninjas, zombies and having lots of fun on stage.

## Q: What WCS US competition years have you entered?

A: We started in 2012 when the finals were at Katsucon. That was our first introduction to the WCS. We enjoyed it so much that we competed in the Eastern Qualifiers for 2013 and 2014.

## Q: What makes WCS different?

A: The biggest difference is the fact that we are competing as a team of two. Last Minute Cosplay is actually made up of 11 members that we have gained throughout the years since 2008. I am used to writing skits for a large group so having to come up with a skit that tells a comprehensive story with only two people can sometimes be difficult. The other big difference is the atmosphere. There is something about WCS that makes it feel like a family. Everyone is willing to help each other out and talk about their costumes and give tips and tricks. You would think the atmosphere backstage would be more tense because of what is at stake, but it is usually one of the most fun green rooms to be in. Everyone is honestly rooting for everyone else and hoping that their skits go well. It's a great feeling to know you have the support of all the other competitors.

## Q: What do you like about Katsucon and the Eastern Qualifier?

A: We go to Katsucon every year and the nice part about competing there is the stage. It is one the largest and best stages of any convention we attend. It's the perfect venue for an event like the WCS. The Eastern Qualifier has been great because it has drawn competitors from all over the United States to it. It isn't a qualifier that seems restrictive to just cosplayers on the east coast. This year we had teams from Hawaii and the west coast. And all the teams are always very supportive. It's a great convention.

## Q: Is there any advice you want to offer?

A: Plan ahead! WCS can't be something you decide to do

Photography by Starrfall

Photography by Starrfall

Photography by Ollie Oberg

at the last second. This year we decided on our costumes just after the 2013 qualifier and even started working on them in May. Our skit took almost a year to develop. Really plan things out and try not to rush. We have a tendency to do things very last minute and even with some of the planning ahead and starting early, we were still rushing to finish things. Give yourself plenty of time so you can enjoy the experience and not worry or stress out too much at the con. Also, plan for the worst! We like to consider anything that might go wrong on stage and be ready to adjust for it. Anything can happen and so you want to try and be ready just in case something breaks or goes wrong. Have alternative ways to do things just in case stage size or set up is different then you were expecting. And just remember that even though this is a competition, we do this because we love it. Cosplay is fun and a great way to meet people and make new friends as well as showing off your love for a character. Keep that in mind and no matter what the result, you'll be content with the performance you have presented. This is a wonderful community to be a part of so embrace it and enjoy it for all it is!

## EASTERN QUALIFIER TEAMS

1st Place: Bejitaballz - Binkx and Mike
[Eastern Qualifier Winners]
2nd Place: Kirayume - Sparkle Pipsi and Daydreamernessa
[Eastern Qualifier Wild Card]
3rd Place: Kiwi Teacup Studios - Envel and Dust Bunny
[Eastern Qualifier Wild Card]

Hawaii Five Oh - Buunbuun and Vengeance
Last Minute Cosplay - Tohma and Shey
Scarlet Mafia - Erisaka Blu and Ginger Kitty
Lupo Tempestas - Lilith Oya and WolfMux
Shikijo Cosplay - Josephiroth and Shikarius

## PHOTOGRAPHER CREDITS:

LJinto
Ollie Oberg - http://orobouros.net/
Starrfall Photography -
http://www.facebook.com/starrfallphotography

## WCS NATIONAL STAFF

Laura Butler - United States Organizer

Kathryn Griffin • Tiffany Tezna • Caitlin Beards
Allyson Rochlin • Eve Flores • Samantha Reinert Michael Krueger

Greg J. Hansen - Writing Staff
Chris Landingin - Media Staff

Website: www.WCSUS.com
General Email: info@wcsus.com
Twitter: WCSPrelimsUS
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Photography by LJinto

Photography by LJinto

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# Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-ray Releases

## Spring 2014

Rio Rollins Tachibana — Rio: Rainbow Gate!

### Mar 25

**Avengers Confidential: Black Widow & Punisher**
*Sony Pictures*
DVD • $19.99 MSRP

**Avengers Confidential: Black Widow & Punisher**
*Sony Pictures*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $26.99 MSRP

**Dragon Half**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP

**Fairy Tail, Part 9**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $54.98 MSRP

**Fist of the North Star the TV Series: The Complete Series Collection**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $149.95 MSRP • Sub (eps 37-152)

**Ghost Stories: Complete Collection**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $44.95 MSRP

**Is This a Zombie? (Season 1): Complete Collection (Anime Classics)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $44.98 MSRP

**Lupin the Third: Bye Bye, Lady Liberty**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $24.95 MSRP

**Mardock Scramble: The Third Exhaust**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $29.98 MSRP

**Mardock Scramble: The Third Exhaust**
Sentai Filmworks
Blu-ray • $39.98 MSRP

**Maria Holic Alive: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $59.98 MSRP • [Bilingual]

**Maria Holic Alive: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

**Pokémon Black & White - Rival Destinies: Set 2**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $19.99 MSRP • Dub

**Ranma ½: LE Blu-ray Boxset 1**
*Viz Media*
Blu-ray • $54.97 MSRP

**Ranma ½: Set 1**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $44.82 MSRP

**Rio -Rainbow Gate!-: Complete Collection**
*Media Blasters*
DVD • $19.98 MSRP • Sub

**Robotics;Notes, Part 2**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

**Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 4 Collection**
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $44.95 MSRP • Dub

**Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 4, Vol. 1**
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $24.95 MSRP • Dub

**Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 4, Vol. 2**
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $24.95 MSRP • Dub

### Apr 1

**Dragon Ball Z: Season 3 Collection**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray • $44.98 MSRP

**Ebiten: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Ebiten: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Happiness!: Complete Collection**
*Maiden Japan*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Princess Nine: Complete Collection**
*TRSI/Lucky Penny*
DVD • $39.99 MSRP

**The Third - The Girl with the Blue Eye: Complete Collection (Litebox)**
*TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment*
DVD • $39.99 MSRP

### Apr 8

**Naruto Shippuden: Set 18**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $44.82 MSRP

**Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie Rebellion**
*Aniplex of America*
Blu-ray • $68.98 MSRP • Sub [Import]

The information on... to date as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

# Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie Rebellion (LE)**
*Aniplex of America*
Blu-ray • $118.98 MSRP • Sub [Import]

**The Familiar of Zero: Season 1 Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP

**The Familiar of Zero: Season 1 Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP

### Apr 15

**BERSERK: The Golden Age Arc III - The Advent**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $19.98 MSRP

**BERSERK: The Golden Age Arc III - The Advent**
*Viz Media*
Blu-ray • $24.98 MSRP

**Madoka Kaname & Homura Akemi — Puella Magi Madoka Magica New Feature: Rebellion**

**From the New World: Collection 1**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

**From the New World: Collection 1**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

**Heaven's Lost Property: Season 1 Collection (Anime Classics)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $39.98 MSRP

**Nyaruko: Crawling with Love!: Season 1 Premium Edition**
*NIS America*
Blu-ray • $64.99 MSRP • Sub

**One Piece: Collection 9**
*FUNimation*
DVD • $34.98 MSRP

**Saint Seiya: Sanctuary Classic Complete Collection**
*Toei Animation/Cinedigm*
DVD • $99.95 MSRP • Sub

**Spice and Wolf: Seasons 1 & 2 Collection (Anime Classics)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $54.98 MSRP

### Apr 22

**-Nekomonogatari Black- Tsubasa Family Blu-ray Boxset (LE)**
*Aniplex of America*
DVD • $64.98 MSRP • Sub/First Press

**Eureka Seven the Movie: Good Night, Sleep Tight, Young Lovers**
*FUNimation*
DVD • $29.98 MSRP

# Releases

Renton Thurston & Eureka — Eureka Seven: Good Night, Sleep Tight, Young Lovers

**Eureka Seven the Movie: Good Night, Sleep Tight, Young Lovers**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $34.98 MSRP

**Eureka Seven, Part 1**
**FUNimation**
DVD • $34.98 MSRP

**Eureka Seven, Part 1**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray • $44.98 MSRP

**Eureka Seven, Part 1 (LE)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray • $49.98 MSRP

**Eureka Seven, Part 2**
*FUNimation*
DVD • $34.98 MSRP

**Eureka Seven, Part 2**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray • $44.98 MSRP

**Hidamari Sketch x 365 (Season 2): Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

**Little Busters!: Collection 2**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

**Little Busters!: Collection 2**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

## Apr 24

**Star Blazers 2199, Vol. 2**
*Voyager Entertainment USA*
DVD • $34.99 MSRP

**Star Blazers 2199, Vol. 2**
*Voyager Entertainment USA*
Blu-ray • $44.99 MSRP

## Apr 29

**Amazing Nuts! Studio 4°C (animated short anthology)**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP • Sub

**Cat Planet Cuties: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $24.98 MSRP

**Cuticle Detective Inaba: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Cuticle Detective Inaba: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

**Jin Roh: The Wolf Brigade**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP

**Mazinger Z TV Series, Vol. 1**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $69.95 MSRP • Sub

**Shangri-La: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)**
*FUNimation*
DVD • $19.98 MSRP

**Unico Double Feature**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

# Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Sena Kashiwazaki & Yozora Mikazuki — Haganai NEXT (I Don't Have Many Friends)**

### May 6

**Aria the Origination: Season 3 Collection + Arietta OVA (Litebox)**
*TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment*
DVD • $39.99 MSRP • Sub

**Fusé: Memoirs of a Huntress Premium Edition**
*NIS America*
Blu-ray • $49.99 MSRP • Sub

**Persona 4 - The Animation: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $79.98 MSRP

**Space Adventure Cobra: The Original TV Series, Part 2**
*TRSI/Nozomi Entertainment*
DVD • $49.99 MSRP • Sub

**Transformers - Energon: Complete Collection**
*Shout! Factory*
DVD • $39.97 MSRP • Dub

### May 13

**Deltora Quest: The Complete Series**
*Cinedigm*
DVD • $79.97 MSRP • Dub

**Dragon Ball Z: Season 4 Collection**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray • $44.98 MSRP

**Haganai NEXT (Season 2): Complete Collection**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

# Releases

### Haganai NEXT (Season 2): Complete Collection (LE)
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $69.98 MSRP • First Press

### Koe de Oshigoto!
*Media Blasters*
DVD • $19.98 MSRP • Sub

### The Book of Bantorra: Complete Collection
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $79.98 MSRP

### The Book of Bantorra: Complete Collection
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $99.98 MSRP

### Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 5 Collection
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $59.95 MSRP • Dub

### Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 5, Vol. 1
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP • Dub

### Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 5, Vol. 2
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $24.95 MSRP • Dub

### Yu-Gi-Oh!: Season 5, Vol. 3
*4K Media/Cinedigm*
DVD • $19.95 MSRP • Dub

## May 20

### Hakkenden -Eight Dogs of the East-: Season 1 Collection
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

### Hakkenden -Eight Dogs of the East-: Season 1 Collection
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

### Nura - Rise of the Yokai Clan: Demon Capital: Set 2
*Viz Media*
DVD • $44.82 • Preliminary

### Nura - Rise of the Yokai Clan: Demon Capital: Set 2
*Viz Media*
Blu-ray • $54.97 MSRP • Preliminary

### Serial Experiments Lain: Complete Collection (Anime Classics)
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $39.98 MSRP

### Shiki: Complete Collection (S.A.V.E. Edition)
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $34.98 MSRP

## May 27

### Aquarion EVOL, Part 2
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $64.98 MSRP

### DearS: Complete Collection
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $39.95 MSRP

### Love, Chunibyo & Other Delusions!: Complete Collection
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

Shinka Nibutani, Rikka Takanashi, Kumin Tsuyuri & Sanae Dekomori — Love, Chunibyo & Other Delusions

# Upcoming Anime DVD/Blu-Ray Releases

## Spring 2014 *Continued*

**Love, Chunibyo & Other Delusions!: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

**Lupin the Third: The Complete First TV Series (Re-release)**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $39.95 MSRP • Sub

**Lupin the Third: The Hemingway Papers**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $24.95 MSRP • Sub

**Motto To Love Ru (Season 2): Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

**Super Robot Wars OG: Divine Wars**
*Media Blasters*
DVD • $24.98 MSRP • Sub

**Super Robot Wars: Original Generation The Animation**
*Media Blasters*
DVD • $14.98 MSRP • Sub

**Tenjho Tenge: Complete Collection**
*Discotek Media*
DVD • $49.95 MSRP

### June 3

**Amnesia: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $59.98 MSRP

**Amnesia: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $69.98 MSRP

**Attack on Titan, Part 1**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $49.98 MSRP

**Attack on Titan, Part 1 (LE)**
*FUNimation*
Blu-ray/DVD Combo • $89.98 MSRP • First Press

**Bleach: Set 21**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $44.82 • Preliminary

**The Hentai Prince and the Stony Cat.: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**The Hentai Prince and the Stony Cat.: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

### June 10

**A Letter to Momo**
*GKids/Cinedigm*
DVD • $29.95 MSRP • Preliminary

**A Letter to Momo**
*GKids/Cinedigm*
Blu-ray • $34.95 MSRP • Preliminary

**Beyblade: Season 1 Collection**
*Cinedigm*
DVD • $69.95 MSRP • Dub

**Beyblade: Season 1, Vol. 1**
*Cinedigm*
DVD • $9.95 MSRP • Dub

**Dog & Scissors: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Leviathan -the last defense-: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Leviathan -the last defense-: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

**MAOYU: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**MAOYU: Complete Collection Sentai Filmworks**
Blu-ray • $59.98 MSRP • Sub

### June 15

**Mobile Suit Gundam Unicorn, Vol. 7**
*Bandai Visual/Honneamise*
Blu-ray • $77.99 MSRP

### June 17

**Busou Shinki - Armored War Goddess: Complete Collection**
*Sentai Filmworks*
DVD • $49.98 MSRP • Sub

**Pokémon Black & White - Rival Destinies: Set 3**
*Viz Media*
DVD • $19.99 MSRP • Sub

# SAKURA-CON

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# Travelling to ANIME MATSURI

# The California Fan Experience

Our flight arrived around noon in Houston on Friday, the day Anime Matsuri (AM) started. It was good to be back in Houston after eight years. Yes, we did attend the very first Anime Matsuri back in 2007 at the same returning venue, the George R. Brown Convention Center. As soon as we got off the taxi at the Hilton Americas Houston, we checked in and went to get our badges as quickly as possible. I don't quite remember, but I think that AM, the first time around, was only on the second and (mostly) on the third floor of the convention center. This time around, it spanned almost two-thirds of the entire convention center. I recalled that there was a skybridge connecting the hotel with the convention center, so we took that path.

Upon walking into the convention center, AM was already in full swing. People and cosplayers everywhere. Not knowing where to go, we asked security where badge pickup was. It was on the second level of the convention center. Even at two o'clock in the afternoon, the lines were very, very long. The truth to the matter was that the line for badge purchased was the long line. Pre-registration line as much shorter. There were no more program guides left by the time we got our badges. I have only heard that the pre-registration lines on Thursday night we also long. Just like the first time around, the badges were really nice. On top of that, there was this little thing we noticed about it. On the front of the badge was a RFID symbol. So this badge has a radio frequency chip embedded in the card. This was the first time I've encountered this kind of badge system with the RFID. What are the ramifications of this? From the knowledge I have of such devices, it could keep track of what events you go to, the number times you go to certain events or keep track of your location when the card is scanned. On the other hand, the cards are very difficult to reproduce, but implies greater security.

Photo by T. Brillo

Having a system like this does have one major drawback, as we experienced on our second day of the AM. There's no doubt that AM has grown by leaps and bounds after eight years running. I've even heard by talking to various people that this is the biggest it has ever been. The way security implemented crowd control was ill-planned thoroughly. After analyzing the layout of the convention center, there were many areas where bottlenecks could have and have

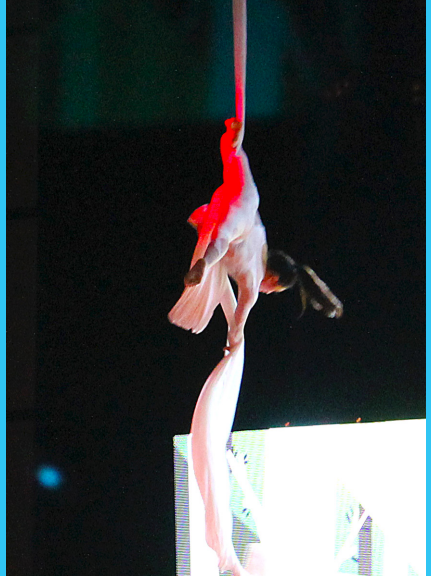
occurred. One main area was the entrance of the exhibit hall. Between the "main" entrance of the convention and the doors that lead into the hall was estimated to be 20 feet by 30 feet with the main escalators to the left. With a crowd of hundreds wanting to go into the hall and security scanning every badge, it became painfully show to get into the hall. Saturday was not a good day to be outside in line waiting to get into the exhibit hall. It was raining that day and at many times, a heavy downpour.

The second major bottleneck was getting to the third floor where all the events and panels were taking place. There were two escalators that only went one way up to the third floor and one-to-two security guards "scanning" badges. One time Saturday afternoon, we went up to the third floor, a lot of people were going up. When we finally reached the top, the was security yelling "go to the back! Go the the back!" "To the back of what?!" we thought to ourselves! One was also yelling "don't block my escalators!" Sarcastically, we didn't know he owned them!

Saturday started off really good. This would actually be our "day 1" because we arrived so late yesterday. Aside from the security fiascos, there are a lot of good things to be said about Anime Matsuri. One thing we did notice that AM seemed pretty laid back. Maybe this was our perception being from California and used to the hectic conventions we have here. Usually, a bunch of us would already up by seven, got ready by eight and be in the convention grounds by nine. Breakfast? What's that? It's only if we have time to eat. Many a times, we don't eat the entire day. Looking at the schedule, AM panels didn't start until 11 am. This dumbfounded us. We're used to have panels starting anywhere from eight to ten o'clock in the morning. Eleven? Half the day is almost over for us.

Even though there were lines for main events, AM Cosplay Contest and the concerts, it was actually good. Yes, we don't like being in lines for a long time, but the people around us in line are most hospitable. We met a lot of people we could talk to, joke around with, tell stories and be

Photos by T. Brillo



silly with. We would share experiences about other conventions. When the conversion turned to where we were from, California, things got interesting. We would tell our stories about the conventions we go to and all of us would make comparisons, between theirs and our convention experiences. Some of our friendly conversions also led to topics like life in California (and for us, Texas), politics, people and the stereotypes portrayed in the media about cosplayers and anime convention-goers.

The "Southern hospitality" was just not in at the convention. At the hotel lounge that we frequented, we met people from all across the South and found them easy to talk to. Here's an example. There was this guy and his girlfriend. By their appearance alone, they were like characters from *Sons of Anarchy*, but they were one the most friendliest people I've met in Houston by far. We were even invited to a private party they were having that night but couldn't attend because of the concerts that night. And we just met these people! It's just so refreshing to be around people who are not high-strung and with attitude. I may be generalizing this, but I think people in Houston (or most areas in the South where it's more cosmopolitan) are just plain wonderful, hospitable and where common courtesy is the norm, not the exception.

Our first major event for the convention was the J-Fashion Show, scheduled to start 8 p.m., but after an almost 2-hour delay, it began. While waiting in line, we began talking to the people around us. They were an interesting bunch. Though we never got their names, one girl was a budding artist. She showed me some of her artwork—a lot were really good. Also to fight the boredom of being in line, we started to act a little goofy as the line inched forward. We all quickly became good friends with each other. And once we entered the main events stage, we stayed as a group.

The show was not what we expected it to be (before we got our hands on a program guide). What we expected was the standard fashion show where models strutted down the runway in full supermodel mode. No! It wasn't like that at all. It started out with a "host," the Story Teller, that gave a narration of a story to follow. In the background, highly dramatic music was playing. The music totally set the mood of what drama was to ensue.

There also was a silk performer, Mai Yamamoto, which was an unsuspected surprise (but not so if we had a program guide), entertained the audience with her death-defying, yet elegant moves. She was just spectacular to watch, twisting, turning, going up and the curtain, holding the audience on the edge of their seats.

When the show continued, for a time it seemed to be a standard lolita fashion show (later to learn they were from Japan). Lolita fashion models were coming down the runway stopping at various poses. This quickly drew to an end. What came next was a theatrical musical. Though the essence of the show was still lolita-based, it became a hybrid of a lolita/pirate-based show. It was highly dramatic and artistic. The music gave the fighting scenes a feeling of heightened intensity. At times, there were short intervals of drama that was emotional.

In the final minutes of the show, we thought that it would return to a lolita fashion show. During this, there was a pianist that played a medley of Disney and *Zelda* music a the models came walking by. It turned our to be an introduction to the ending of the show. "What a twist!" After the closing credits, it ended abruptly. Though there were some technical issues during the show, mainly the violinist was not able to be heard, the J-Fashion Show was hit, though no indication was given that the show ended.

The following evening was the Anime Matsuri Cosplay Contest. Essentially a masquerade, it was unlike any that I've ever gone to. Before everything began, there was a major delay in the event due to technical issues. After it was taken of, AMCC began in full swing. In this cosplay contest, the audience votes for their favorite contestant. Sure there are the normal titles such as Best in Show, Best Technical, etc., but that's for the guest judges to decide. Apparently, all pre-judging was done earlier in the day of all the contestants. By doing this, the contest did not take an ungodly long time like in other "masquerades." Each contestant had an entry number to go by (and is in the program guide). The audience voted by using their cell phones. There's a cell number that the audience texts the contestants entry number to vote. With over 60 contestants, the entire cosplay contest took only over an hour to finish. Utterly amazing!

During the intermission, as the judges were making their final decisions, Japanese cosplayer guest, Reika was introduced on stage. After a short question and answer session, all *Attack on Titan* cosplayers in the audience were invited to come on stage for a photo shoot. This was completely amazing! After announcing all the winners of the cosplay

Photos by T. Brillo

contest, there was a last chance photo shoot of the winning cosplayers.

A couple hours after the AM Cosplay Contest was our last two scheduled events after a quick break at the "lounge," the Eyeshine and Nightmare concerts. Eyeshine, who opened for Nightmare, is an alternative rock band started up by Johnny Yong Bosch (of *Power Rangers* fame) and Maurice Salmin. Again, we have waited in line for almost two hours because of the sound crew could not be found to set up the stage. Waiting in line that long was palatable because we meet some awesome people in line with us. Talking to them made time go by really quickly. By the time were got into the main events hall for the concert, Eyeshine played their last five songs. And yes, they played the *Power Rangers* theme!

Nightmare is a Japanese visual kei heavy metal band. I really don't know much about this group or their music. I only know that they did the opening theme to the *Death Note* anime. We stayed for a few of their songs until we we had to leave.

Off our planned schedule was the Nerdlesque Show, a burlesque show just for the nerdy types. There were four performers, each with a different theme. Though we caught the show halfway through, the performances we watched were based from *Portal*, *Star Wars*, *Super Mario* and *Tron*. The last themed performance (*Tron*) was done by Stella Chuu, the famous cosplayer from New York City. Nice…very nice!

After a short break, again at the "lounge," we decided to check out Club Anime Matsuri (Club AM) back at the main events hall. Oh man, it was thumping! The DJ was no other than TeddyLoid, the famous DJ straight out of Tōkyō, Japan. He had an interesting mix of video game and techno music which the crowd moved and grooved to!

Throughout the three-day convention, there were a few panels we wanted to go to. The panel I really wanted to go to was the FullMetal Nation panel that was scheduled Friday at noon. That was around the time our flight arrived in Houston, so we completely missed it. I'm not sure if it was canceled or not. According to the final schedule, there was nothing in that time slot for Panel Room 1. Saturday evening was a *FullMetal Alchemist* panel in Panel Room 2, but it clashed with our plans with AM Cosplay Contest.

Late Saturday morning (relatively), our first panel was the *Resident Evil* panel. The panelists were Matt Mercer, Tara Platt, Yuri Lowenthal and Johnny Young Bosch. Though there's nothing new coming out of the *Resident Evil* franchise, the panelists discussed the voice-over industry. Each were telling their stories about past projects they did as well as how a voice-over sessions is done.

The next panel I wanted to attend was Anime and Religion which was Saturday afternoon. I didn't realize then—while waiting in line the usher said the panel was cancelled. But because of the how loud the hall was, I really couldn't hear her well. We entered the panel room and took our seats. The usher came in moments later when more people showed up to tell everyone in the room that the panel was cancelled. But instead, we were allowed to have an impromptu panel in the room. Some girls went up on stage to continue a panel with a discussion about anime and religion. The panel started off slow, but when the

panel picked up, the discussion started to go astray. Without a set course in a panel discussion, it could easily get out of hand—which it almost did. With the many opinions given, it's a miracle that there were no real heated arguments. The panel ended well with some in the audience continued discussing the subject amongst themselves.

Out last panel, or should I say event, was Closing Ceremonies Sunday afternoon. We finally got to see all the guests (that were left) because we missed the Opening Ceremonies. The only guests we didn't see was Nightmare. Apparently, they were taking their own little vacation at Johnson Space Center. There was another guest that wasn't there, but I forgot who it was. We also didn't know that there was going to be a K-pop girl group that was there. Up on stage, they showed some of their moves. Reika, the Putumayo guest models from the J-Fashion Show and the other Japanese guests finally gave their final words. I find it a little amusing that it seemed that I was one of the possible few people who understood Japanese just because I (from I could only hear) was the only one clapping after they said what they needed to say—in Japanese. The audience followed accordingly after the translator did his job. And with John Leigh, the Events Director, thanking everyone for their attendance and shaking hands with some the of the audience, Anime Matsuri came to end. Though it was "bang, bang bang!" for our short three-day vacation to Texas,  Anime Matsuri was a big hit with us. We would like to go back to wonderful Houston and Anime Matsuri again if circumstances permit us to. ❖ Ed Gomez

Photo by T. Brillo

# Console & Desktop Gaming

## Spring 2014

### Mar 20

**Cloudbuilt**
Rising Star Games • Coilworks
*PC • Platformer*

**Pokemon Battle Trozei**
Nintendo
*3DS • Puzzle*

### Mar 21

**Infamous: Second Son**
Sony Computer Entertainment • Sucker Punch
*PS4 • Action*

### Mar 25

**Bioshock Infinite: Burial at Sea, Episode Two**
2K Games • Irrational Games
*PC, PS3, X360 • Shooter*

**BlazBlue: Chrono Phantasma**
Aksys Games • ARC System Works
*PS3 • Fighting*

**Cabela's Big Game Hunter: Pro Hunts**
Activision
*PC, PS3, Wii U, X360 • Hunting*

**Cut the Rope: Triple Treat**
Activision • ZeptoLab
*3DS • Puzzle*

**Deception IV: Blood Ties**
Tecmo KOEI
*PS Vita, PS3 • Strategy*

**Deus Ex: The Fall**
Square Enix • Eidos Studios - Montreal, N-Fusion Interactive
*PC • Shooter*

Odin — Final Fantasy XIV

**Diablo III: Reaper of Souls**
Blizzard Entertainment
*Mac, PC • Action, RPG*

**Dynasty Warriors 8 Xtreme Legends**
Koei • Omega Force
*PS Vita, PS3, PS4 • Action*

**Ether One**
White Paper Games
*Mac, PC • Shooter*

**Fez**
Polytron Corporation
*PS Vita, PS3, PS4 • Puzzle, Platform*

**The Witch and the Hundred Knight**
NIS
*PS3 • Action, RPG*

**Titanfall**
Electronic Arts • Respawn Entertainment
*X360 • Shooter, First-Person*

### Mar 27

**Carmageddon: Reincarnation**
Stainless Games • Stainless Games
*PC • Racing, Action*

### Mar 31

**Age of Wonders III**
Triumph Studios
*PC • Strategy*

**Shovel Knight**
Yacht Club Games
*Linux, Mac, PC • Action, Adventure*

### Apr 1

**Awesomenauts Assemble!**
Ronimo Games • Abstraction Games
*PS4 • Persistent Online Shooter*

**MLB 14: The Show**
SCE San Diego Studio • Sony Computer Entertainment
*PS Vita, PS3 • Sports*

**Ragnarok Odyssey Ace**
Xseed Games • Game Arts
*PS Vita, PS3 • RPG*

### Apr 2

**5 Star Wrestling**
Serious Parody
*PS3 • Sports*

**Batman: Arkham Origins Blackgate, Deluxe Edition**
Warner Bros. Interactive • Armature Studio
*PC, PS3, Wii U, X360 • Action*

### Apr 4

**The Elder Scrolls Online**
Bethesda Softworks • ZeniMax Online Studios
*Mac, PC • RPG*

### Apr 8

**Daylight**
Altus USA • Zombie Studios
*PC, PS4 • Adventure*

**Kinect Sports Rivals**
Microsoft Game Studios • Rare
*XBOX1 • Sports, Party*

## Apr 11

### Disney Magical World
Nintendo • Hand
*3DS • Adventure*

### LEGO: The Hobbit
Warner Bros. Interactive • TT Games
*3DS, Mac, PC, PS Vita, PS3, PS4, Wii U, X360, XBOX1 • Adventure*

## Apr 14

### Final Fantasy XIV Online: A Realm Reborn
Square Enix
*PS4 • RPG*

### Final Fantasy XIV Online: A Realm Reborn (Collector's Edition)
Square Enix
*PS4 • RPG*

## Apr 15

### 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil
Electronic Arts • EA Canada
*PS3, X360 • Sports*

### Conception II: Children of the Seven Stars
Atlus • Spike
*3DS, PS Vita • RPG*

### Moebius: Empire Rising
Phoenix Online Studios • Pinkerton Road
*Mac, PC • Adventure*

## Apr 16

### Life Goes On
Independent
*3DS, Linux, Mac • Platformer*

### Trials Fusion
Ubisoft • RedLynx
*PC, PS4, X360, XBOX1 • Racing, Action*

## Apr 22

### Demon Gaze
NIS • Kadokawa Games, Experience Inc.
*PS Vita • RPG*

**Laegrinna, the Devil's Daughter (below) and the three demon servants Caelea, Lilia & Veruza — Deception IV: Blood Ties**

## Apr 24

### BlazBlue: Chrono Phantasma
Aksys Games • ARC System Works
*PS Vita • Fighting*

## Apr 25

### Dark Souls II
Bandai Namco Games • From Software
*PC • Action, RPG*

The information presented here is as accurate as much as humanly possible and is subject to change without notice.

# Console & Desktop Gaming

## Spring 2014

### NES Remix 2
Nintendo • Nintendo EAD Tokyo
*Wii U • Party*

## Apr 27

### The Amazing Spider-Man 2
Activision • Beenox
*3DS, PC, PS3, PS4, Wii U, X360, XBOX1 • Action*

## Apr 30

### Child of Light
Ubisoft • Ubisoft Montreal
*PS3, PS4, Wii U, X360, XBOX1 • RPG*

## May 2

### Kirby: Triple Deluxe
Nintendo • Camelot Software Planning
*3DS • Platformer*

### Mario Golf World Tour
Nintendo • Nintendo EAD, Nintendo R&D2
*3DS • Sports, Action*

## May 6

### God of War Collection
Sony Computer Entertainment • Bluepoint Games, SCE Studios Santa Monica
*PS Vita • Compilation*

### The character classes of Ragnarok Odyssey

## May 9

### Killer is Dead
Deep Silver • Grasshopper Mfg
*PC • Action*

## May 20

### Wolfenstein: The New Order
Bethesda Softworks • MachineGames
*PC, PS3, PS4, X360, XBOX1 • Shooter*

## May 21

### Drakengard 3
Nintendo • Hand
*PS3 • Action, RPG*

### Drakengard 3 (Collector's Edition)
Square Enix • Access Games (JP)
*PS3 • Action, RPG*

## May 27

### Watch Dogs
Ubisoft • Ubisoft Montreal
*PC, PS3, PS4, X360, XBOX1 • Action*

### The Sly Collection
Sony Computer Entertainment • Sanzaru Games, Sucker Punch
*PS Vita • Platformer*

## May 30

### Mario Kart 8
Nintendo
*Wii U • Racing, Action*

## Jun 3

### Murdered: Soul Suspect
Square Enix • Airtight Games
*PC, PS3, PS4, X360, XBOX1 • Adventure*

ANIME SPOT PRESENTS

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# NCLCON 2014

Anime, Manga & Japanese Culture
March 29th-30th

Guest appearances from
Patrick Seitz and Kyle Hebert

/NewcastleCon
@NCLcon
nclcon.co.uk

Tickets:
£20 weekend
£15 under 16's

Location:
Eldon Leisure, Eldon Square
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

The Rubber Pineapple
AnimeZ www.animez.co.uk
Charly Von Karma Fangirl Artist charlyvonkarma.com
Lacy May Illustration
Keep Calm and is that YAOI?!
Spanky Spangler Steampunk Creations
Shadowrealm Tournaments
And more...

**Kyōkai no Kanata**
**(Beyond the Boundary)**
**境界の彼方**
TV • October 2 - December 18, 2013
Kyoto Animation • Sentai Filmworks

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
Beyond_the_Boundary
anime-kyokai.com

**Director:** Ishidate, Taich
**Writer:** Handa, Jukki
**Music:** Nanase, Hikaru

**Cast:**
Kanbara, Akihito = Kenn
Kuriyama, Mirai = Taneda, Risa
Nase, Mitsuki = Chihara, Minori
Nase, Hiroomi = Suzuki, Tatsuhisa

# 境界の彼方

kyokai no kanata

# Beyond the Boundary

While at work with my co-worker whom I normally watch anime with, we were in desperate need of a new series to occupy the hole that *Shingeki no Kyojin* left, and on Crunchyroll we found a series that seemed pretty all right named *Beyond the Boundary*. From first glance, the artwork seemed really cool (It is VERY hard for me to get into an anime series if the artwork is not at least somewhat enjoyable) and it had a pretty cool name, so why not try it, what is the worst that could happen?

This review is going to tell you the result of that little impulse decision in that break room on that fateful night, whether-or-not it was a smart choice to choose the book simply by its beautifully draw cover, and if it happened to deliver on what looked to be a good series to watch.

## What is Kyōkai no Kanata about?

**Spirit World Warriors** are people gifted with special powers to see and fight *yōmu*, creatures that are born into existence from the hatred of humankind. Spirit World Warriors hunt these yōmu and defeat them to collect the stones they drop upon their defeat, trading it in at a local shop for currency to be spent howsoever they please.

Kuriyama Mirai is the sole descendant of a Spirit World Warrior Clan shunned for their power of manipulated their own cursed blood. Kanbara Akihito is known as the "Immortal Half Yōmu," the child born between the very rare pairing between a human and yōmu. He is said to be gifted with the ability to never die.

*Kyōkai no Kanata* is the unlikely pairing of Akihito and Kuriyama as they embark on a journey to discover the truth beyond the mysterious yōmu known as "Beyond the Boundary," and exactly what it has to do with both of them and the world itself.

## Story Impressions

This series is a combination of action, comedy with both shōnen and

Hiroomi Nase

Mitsuki Nase

shōjo elements; however it is ultimately, at its base, a love story (And is derived from a light novel with the same name), and actually starts off pretty well. The very first episode introduces both protagonists, Akihito Kanbara and Mirai Kuriyami, in an outlandish fashion that immediately grabs your interest; in fact, it makes you wonder what type of insanity you are about to see in the rest of the episode merely from the opening minutes. They later go on to describe who the characters are and what abilities they all possess, including the world they live in and the rules and stipulations that apply to Spirit World Warriors and the Society of Spirit World Warriors.

It is funny how this story comes to reveal itself, as the more episodes you watch, the more you learn of what happened before the first episode even started; and why certain things occurred as they did throughout the series (Mainly by revealing something that happened either before, during, or after an event that resulted in a character acting different; however, at the time the viewer will believe it was another action or incident that sparked that response instead, great plot devices). Flashbacks are something seen quite often, however, it does not feel forced or wasted, but an intricate part of the storytelling that seemed fine tuned to be a critical part of the anime; compared to some anime which seem to use flashbacks merely as fillers with little to no actual significance on the main story and could be easily omitted without much concern for a lack of information. A few examples of this is why Mirai responded to Akihito in such harsh manners sometimes earlier on into the story, and even when explaining the back story of characters like Sakura.

However, something I did not like at all about the story is that some things remained inconclusive at the very end of the show, mainly because certain things were not revealed during the course of the show which I really wanted to know; not having these things revealed at the end is a major let down and destroys the feeling of "completeness" the end of a show should bring. Not only this, I did not enjoy the demise of the main antagonist during the very end of the show; what should have been a beyond epic climatic battle turned into a few lousy hits. This is especially disappointing because the battles in *Kyōkai no Kanata* are awesome overall, especially the fighting style that they give to the main heroine, Mirai Kuriyama. Not having an over-the-top final battle with someone who should get their just desserts screams failure.

Overall I will have to give this story line a pass because the ending, despite the battle, was actually pretty fulfilling. The ending actually reminds me much of *Toradora!'s* ending, just as heart-warming and affectionate, this alone is enough to make you all filled with butterflies because there is nothing like a delicious vanilla ending.

## Character Impressions

With the exception of the main antagonist, the cast of *Kyōkai no Kanata* is actually pretty solid as far as their development and defining moments go. Normally I feel a type of bland, one-dimensional personality for anyone who is not a main character, as they are either good, bad, or they simply have an ulterior motive and turn out to be something else entirely because of that motive (you can often tell that they are not loyal to either side though). I feel as though they tried to make each character as "human" as possible, allow me to explain.

As the story progresses we begin to see the developing relationships and how each character perceives the others, they do so through a range of actions, from humorous to deathly serious. I feel this story element was done exceptionally well, as most people (except the main antagonist), seems to be blurred inside of a grey area, this gives them the uncanny ability to seemingly have tiered-personalities, just like actual people. I find that we all are neither fully good nor fully bad, and sometimes we blur the line

in-between them…this series makes you, at times, question those who would appear to be allies and even if the main enemy is actually a bad guy or someone who is trying to save the world, that is very hard to pull off.

In one episode everyone had to defeat a yōmu who would let out a very bad smelling liquid, coating everything it sees with it and forcing our heroes to repeatedly take showers to get off the foul stench. They showed determination that was burning with vengeance…all while dancing to the beat with a choreographed performance, lip-syncing and all. When Akihito lost control of himself and turned into his dreaded Yōmu form, those who were his closest friends were prepared to eradicate him if it meant saving the world, and even Kuriyama changed her stance about judging Akihito for saying they were more alike than she thought. These things show you multiple sides to the characters, both making you question them and their moralities, as well as realize they are only doing the best they can in what seems like an impossible and pressing situation. You get the feeling of them choosing between duty and friendship, love and obligation.

Also, they make sure to give little quirks to each character in order to make them appear more realistic, be it a hobby or strange interest. Kuriyama Mirai was shown taking care of bonsai trees with her spare money, which is probably why she hardly had any most of the time. Akihito Kanbara is a lover of glasses and wants nothing more than to see the women of the world wearing them. Even Hiroomi Nase has a stereotypical little sister fetish, where he absolutely adores Mitsuki and cannot help but fawn over here, she is even the wallpaper on the background of his phone and her picture was laminated to be used as a bookmark! Their dialogue also shows some of their quirks, such as Kuriyama saying, "unpleasant" repeatedly and Mitsuki constantly telling Akihito that his dream is to confess to her by the end of the school year (that and remarks that continue to make you think she wants him to "attack" her).

Also, there is loads of mystery shrouded in exactly who some of the characters are and what their true motives will be, and one of my pet peeves, but a dire point of brilliance, is that you never found out some of them. One such question is exactly who is Akihito's mother? Things like this will drive you crazy wanting to find out and unknowingly draw you more into their world.

In all, I feel like the characters are what make the series, everyone is unique in their own respect and you cannot help but laugh and relate to each and every one of them (except the main antagonist...I know I keep saying that but I hate how one-dimensional they made him with the whole "I have a evil plot to destroy the world!"…and no reason to do so beyond just being a spiteful person).

## Other Mentions

One major thing that stands out about this series is the artwork. I think it should be said that the quality given in both stills as well as the action scenes deserves quite a bit of applause. You can see it from the details of how they draw the hair, even down to the very slight lighter tone they use when coloring fingernails in comparison to the skin color. Also, they tend to use solids but the contrast is very good between light and shadow, combined with the animation makes for a very smooth experience. I normally cannot watch an anime if I totally dislike the art style, in fact, despite what the story is I will usually avoid it if I find it to be completely repulsive to my taste (I normally like really dark anime that has high contrasts in tones, like Hellsing Ultimate, but the subtle light-hearted drawings captured my interest), so having something this wonderful to view in motion was a treat.

Something else I want to touch on is the actual fight scenes. They are nothing short of brilliant and wonderfully represent what a "Spirit World Warrior" could be capable of. The animation is smooth, and the fights are well thought out. However, I do not believe they had enough and some people felt limited (Like Mitsuki who relied on her pet her Akihito who did not really fight at all until the end), but what they did show was good enough, you never really

get tired of seeing Mirai in action.

Another thing that deserves mention is the effects, such as fire, sparks, and other such things. They do not appear too congested and you can still clearly see everything that is going on, so they prove to only enhance what happens as opposed to taking away from it or slowing down the action with long periods of special effects (So far, Strike the Blood does not have many great effects in my opinion, so *Kyōkai no Kanata* is a welcome change of pace).

## The Verdict

**STRENGTHS**—Beautifully drawn artwork, lovable and remember-able characters, terrific story line advancement, heart-warming ending.

**WEAKNESSES**—Some information remains a mystery, anti-climatic showdown with the main antagonist, the ending feels a bit rushed despite its heart-warming nature.

Simply one of the best anime to come out for this season, I would suggest that everyone at least give the first couple of episodes a try to see if it is your tastes or not, I guarantee that you will more than likely be telling your friends about just how wonderful this anime is.

I find that heroine is entirely too cute and that all the characters are well thought out and unique, not just the protagonists. I feel that each one of them have special properties that makes them stand out from one another, and that eventually their perceptions of each other become out in the open with shocking results.

The action scenes are energetic and packed full of goodness to make you want to come back for more with a plot that thickens with every episode, ultimately leading to an ending that just warms your heart. You cannot ask for a better anime to watch during winter for that very reason.

❖ Rok the Reaper

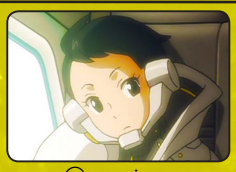
# Who's That Seiyū

**Saitō Chiwa**
**斎藤 千和**

DOB: **March 12, 1981**
**Saitama Prefecture**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***



Geronimo
***Nobunagun***

Karasuyama, Chitose
***D-Frag!***

Masaki, Nonoka
***Photo Kano***

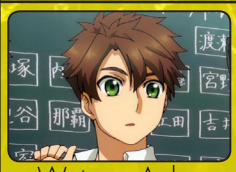
Senjōgahara, Hitagi
***Monogatari Series***

**Matsuoka, Yoshitsugu**
**松岡 禎丞**

DOB: **September 17, 1986**
**Hokkaido**

Blood Type: **N/A**

***Current Roles…***



Watase, Aoba
***Buddy Complex***

Titus Alexius
***Magi***

Sitri
***Makai Ōji***

Ichiō, Raku
***Nisekoi***

**Tomatsu, Haruka**
**戸松 遥**

DOB: **February 4, 1990**
**Ichinomiya, Aichi**

Blood Type: **B**

***Current Roles…***

Kirisaki, Chitoge
***Nisekoi***

Takayama, Haruka
***Sakura Trick***

Kazama, Rio
***Sekai de Ichiban***

Maya, Mari
***Samurai Flamenco***

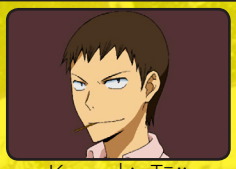
**Suwabe, Junichi**
**諏訪部 順一**

DOB: **March 29, 1972**
**Tōkyō**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***

Dandy
***Space Dandy***



Kanzaki, Tōji
***Yowamushi Pedal***

Minabe, Yukiya
***Meganebu!***

Sirzechs Lucifer
***Highschool DxD***

**Shimazaki, Nobunaga**
**島﨑 信長**

DOB: **December 6, 1988**
**Miyagi Prefecture**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***

Hasegawa, Utsutsu
***Pupa***

Tarjim Vasily
***Buddy Complex***

Furuya, Satoru
***Diamond no Ace***

Maeda, Kazuya
***Photo Kano***

**Majima, Junji**
**間島 淳司**

DOB: **May 13, 1978**
**Nagoya, Aichi**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***

Kanzaki, Yūya
***ImoCho***

Shiodome, Itaru
***Nagi no Asukara***

Sako, Shuntarō
***PapaKiki!***

Miyagishi, Tōru
***Hanasaku Iroha***

# ī of Winter 2014

## Hikasa, Yōko
**日笠 陽子**

DOB: **July 16, 1985**
**Kanagawa Prefecture**

Blood Type: **O**

***Current Roles…***

Amakusa, Shino
***Seitokai Yakuindomo***

Jeanne Kaguya d'Arc
***Nobunaga the Fool***

Kirigiri, Kyōko
***Danganronpa***

Maria Cadenzavna Eve
***Senki Zesshō Symphogear G***

## Kamiya, Hiroshi
**神谷 浩史**

DOB: **January 28, 1975**
**Matsudo, Chiba**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***

Yato
***Noragami***

Freecell
***Phi Brain: Kami no Puzzle 3***

Juli
***Brothers Conflict***

Levi
***Shingeki no Kyojin***

## Seki, Tomokazu
**関 智一**

DOB: **September 8, 1972**
**Kōtō, Tōkyo**

Blood Type: **AB**

***Current Roles…***

Kō
***Strange+***

Kōgami, Shinya
***Psycho-Pass***

Tatsumi, Kanji
***Persona 4: The Animation***

Suzuhara, Tōji
***Shin Seiki Evangelion***

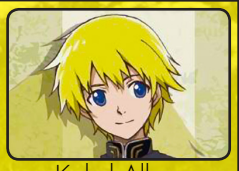
## Hanae, Natsuki
**花江 夏樹**

DOB: **June 26, 1991**
**Kanagawa Prefecture**

Blood Type: **B**

***Current Roles…***

Jimon, Asuta
***Sekai Seifuku***



Kal-el Albus
***Toaru Hikūshi e no Koiuta***

Haimura, Kiri
***Dansai Bunri no Crime Edge***

Kanō, Shin'ichi
***Outbreak Company***

## Nagatsuma, Juri
**長妻 樹里**

DOB: **October 27, 1988**
**Hokkaidō**

Blood Type: **O**

***Current Roles…***

Mizuhara, Ichika
***Oneechan ga Kita***

Shichimiya, Satone
***Chūnibyō***

Makino, Kanna
***Tamako Market***

Matsunaga, Tsubame
***Majikoi!***

## Honda, Mariko
**本多 真梨子**

DOB: **October 3, 1986**
**Kanagawa Prefecture**

Blood Type: **A**

***Current Roles…***

Mazinger Z (Z-chan)
***Robot Girls Z***

Galil
***Upotte!!***

Lilia Lilith
***Korezom***

Aioi, Yūko
***Nichijō***

# TV Anime Sparks Investigation

Recently, one anime may have aimed a little too high in appealing to the lowest common denominator, and is now the subject of a broadcast decency investigation.

The anime in question is called *Saikin, Imōto no Yōsu ga Chotto Okashiin Da Ga.*, also known as *Recently, My Sister is Unusual*. It's about Mitsuki Kanzaki and Yūya Kanzaki becoming step siblings when their parents remarried. Though their relationship as step siblings start off normally, a ghost by the name of Hiyori Kotobuki enters the scene. She's possesses Mutsuki often to get "closer" to her Yūya-onichan. This led to some questionable scenes in the anime.

Broadcasters Tokyo MX and Sun Television chose to air *Recently, My Sister is Unusual* at 10 p.m., a decision which has drawn fire from Japan's Broadcasting Ethics and Program Improvement Organization (BPO). An investigation was officially opened on Jan 29. The non-government organization states its—often conflicting—goals to "promote higher ethical standards while ensuring freedom of speech."

"Despite the fact that 10 p.m. is not an unusual time for middle and high school students to be watching television, the program contains explicit sexual situations (ed: by Japanese standards), such as a high school girl talking about masturbating," as stated by the committee's chairman. Upon receiving numerous complaints from viewers, the committee screened the program for members, who then decided to begin an investigation as to what corrective actions. *ImoCho's* production committee has not been named as a subject of the investigation.

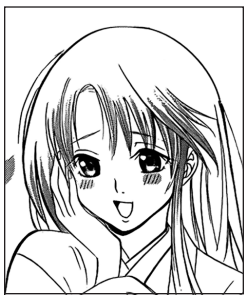
Following the BPO's announcement, both Tokyo MX and Sun TV have chosen to change scheduling, moving the anime's to a later time slot or to a early morning time slot.

It's still to early to tell what fallout it will produce at the time of this printing. ❖

RIVAL COMICS
きつねのよめいり
KITSUNE NO YOMEIRI
高木聡
Satoshi Takagi
She is a princess of loving mischief!
He is a dull boy who is not at all lucky!
They are really close couple
Though they have a lot of problems.

**Hayame, Ōsuke**

A high schooler full of misfortune. Though considered ordinary, he tires to do his best and hold his standards high. For this reason, Kyōka likes him very much.



**Hayame, Kyōka**

Kyōka is the princess of the White Fox clan and Ōsuke's "wife" in the form of a human girl. She's very fond of him and play pranks on him, as this is was foxes do. She enrolls to the same school as Ōsuke.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

by

Takagi, Satoshi (高木聡)

Ōsuke is a very unfortuante high schooler. On his first day of high school, her get into a series of predicaments—just on his way to schoo. On his way to school, he comes across an inari shrine. He notices that the fox statue was knocked over. He stands it up and ties a bow on the neck of the statue. Later after school, on his way home, is caught in a rain shower while being sunny. During the shower, a religious procession goes by. He notices the maiden as she smiles at him. When he arrives home, he's greeted by his "wife," Kyōka, Princess of the White Fox Clan. So their new life begins.

Here's a preview of the first chapter. Be sure to support the author.

These pages are meant to read in spreads, side by side. The story flow will be off, if read page by individual page.

**Kitsune no Yomeiri**
**(The Fox's Wedding)**
**きつねのよめいり**

Kodansha, Shounen Rival
April 2008 - July 2007, 7 Volumes

kitsu.wikia.com/wiki/Kitsune_no_Yomeiri

**Author:** Takagi, Satoshi

**Genre:** Comedy, Romance, School Life, Shounen, Supernatural, Fantasy

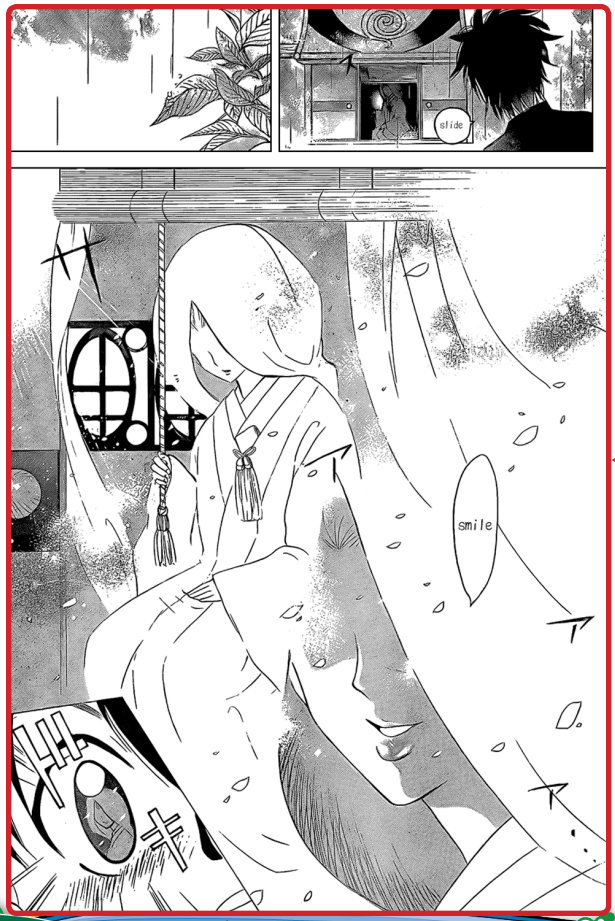
**Format:** Softcover/Manga
**Price:** ¥400 MSRP each volume

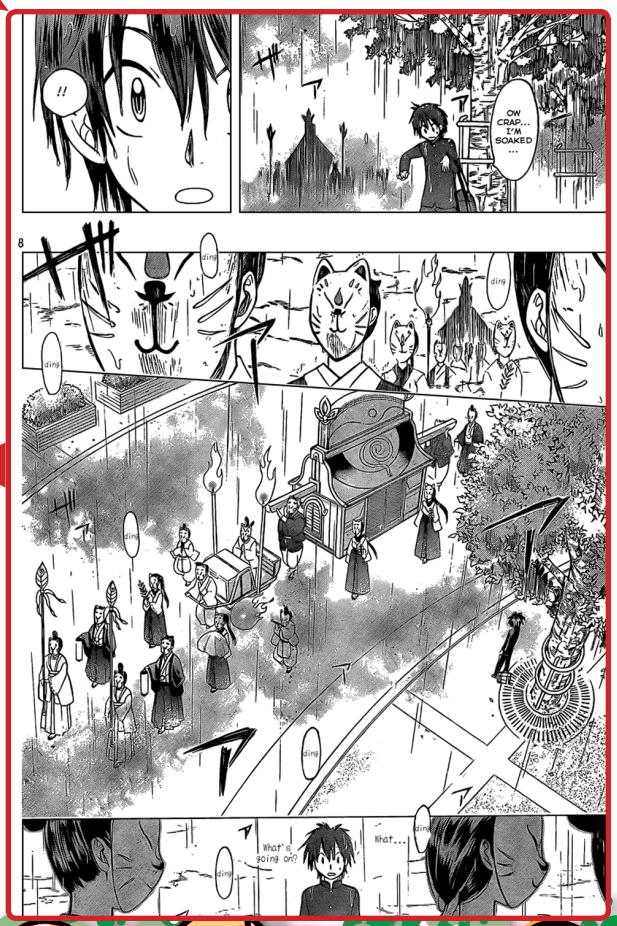
Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

IF IT WAS PEACEFUL TODAY...
WAIT A MINUTE... IT'S A TRUTH IN LIFE THAT BAD THINGS COME AFTER ANY GOOD...
ALL RIGHT! IF IT'S FATED FOR SOMETHING BAD TO HAPPEN TO ME...
THEN I'LL GO STEP IN A PUDDLE OF MUD MYSELF BEFORE IT CAN HAPPEN TO ME!
POSITIVELY NEGATIVE!
SCHOOL WAS PRETTY NICE AND PEACEFUL.
PHEW... THIS MORNING WAS HORRIFYING, BUT...
Bye!
See you tomorrow!
HAHAHA! I'LL GET THROUGH LIFE LIKE THIS!
NO, IT'S... RAIN?
BUT IT'S SUNNY TODAY...
!!
SHUDDER
AH!
BIRD CRAP !?
THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL!
JEEZ WHAT THE HECK!? I'VE GOT HORRIBLE LUCK AFTER ALL!
7
PINKTOPIA SOSEXYSCANS

phew
Grin
Grin
Grin
Grin
WE'RE SO LUCKY, MAYBE WE'LL HAVE A CHANCE AT THEM AS WELL.
THE BABES IN OUR CLASS ARE ALL PRETTY CUTE!
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING FOR, OUSUKE?
PEACE... I AM CONTENT NOW!
OH, YOU SAW THE GIRLS HERE, DIDN'T YOU?
6
WELL, YEAH... SINCE YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT HAIR ANYWAY. IT'S DOUBTFUL YOU'D SCORE ANYHOW.
HE'S NEGATIVE AS ALWAYS.
BECAUSE I'M ME.
You haven't dashed since elem. school...
WOMEN...? GIRLFRIENDS...? THOSE HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY LIFE FROM NOW ON ANYWAY!
HEH.
WHAT IS SO FUNNY!



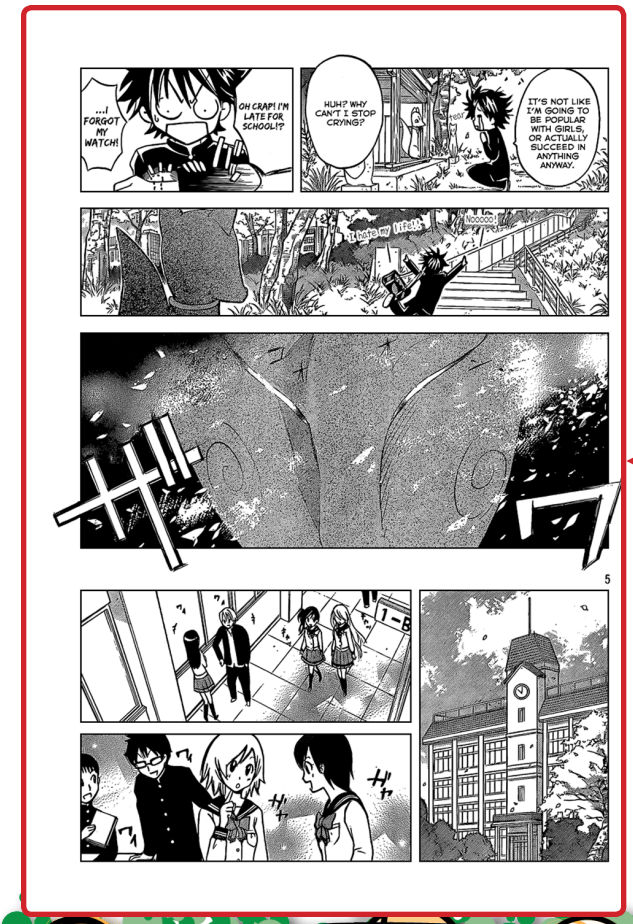

**Stop Reading Here**

# Start Reading Here

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

Spring!! My new life starts today, living alone as a brand new high school student!
PLOP
I WOKE UP EARLY TODAY, SO THERE'S HAS TO BE SOMETHING GOOD!
ALL RIGHT! I USUALLY OVERSLEEP, BUT...
GRRR
Oh shit!...
I HATE CATERPILLARS!
WAUGH!
STOMP
DUSKE HAYAMA HIGH SCHOOL 1ST YEAR
WAAAUGGH!
2


...! FORGOT MY WATCH!
OH CRAP! I'M LATE FOR SCHOOL!?
HUH? WHY CAN'T I STOP CRYING?
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO BE POPULAR WITH GIRLS, OR ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN ANYTHING ANYWAY.
I hate my life!!
1-B
5

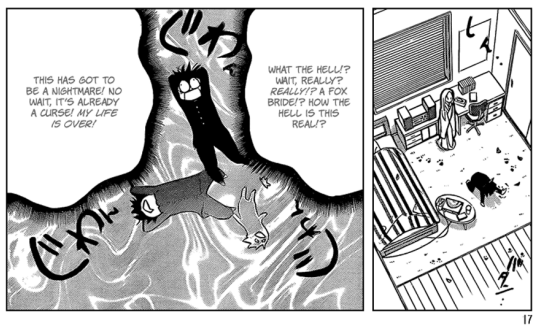
AN OINARI-SAN...
HERE OF ALL PLACES?
THIS IS JUST BAD LUCK AS IT IS!
HEY! THE OINARI-SAN'S MESSED UP!
I HAVE AN IDEA! I'LL PRAY FOR GOOD LUCK HERE WHILE I'M AT IT!
4
I DON'T NEED ANY GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO ME, I JUST WANT A NORMAL, PEACEFUL LIFE.
PLEASE, PLEASE LET THIS BAD-LUCK THING ABOUT ME GO AWAY.
ALL RIGHT! THAT SHOULD DO IT.
TL Note: Inari are fox statues or figurines similar to the Jizo. The honorific prefix O- is attached: thus, Oinari and Ojizo.

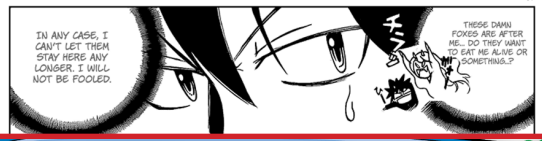
Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

A FOX!? SHE DOESN'T HAVE A TAIL! OR PANTIES!!
GET HIM!!
YOU PERVERT!
WHAT HERESY TO OUR KYOKA-SAMA!!
WHAT THE!? THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM!?
TSUKIMI-KO-SAN YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!
STOP THAT AT ONCE!
YES. WE WERE DELIVERING KYOKA-SAMA HERE IN THAT CARRIAGE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'VE ONLY JUST MET US IN TOWN.
JUST NOW...!? WAIT A MINUTE...!
WHA... F...FOXES ...!? TALKING? WHAT?
OUSUKE-SAMA, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SO THIS GIRL IS REALLY A...A..A FOX!!!??
WHAT? ,THEN THE BRIDE IN THAT CARRIAGE WAS THIS GIRL...

We will curse your line for a hundred generations, bringing all manner of misfortune and destruction upon you!
The hate of the foxes will haunt you for ages!
If you ever manage to make Kyoka-sama unhappy...
Kanji 呪 means: "curse"


THIS HAS GOT TO BE A NIGHTMARE! NO WAIT, IT'S ALREADY A CURSE! MY LIFE IS OVER!
WHAT THE HELL!? WAIT, REALLY!? REALLY!? A FOX BRIDE!? HOW THE HELL IS THIS REAL!?
17


IN ANY CASE, I CAN'T LET THEM STAY HERE ANY LONGER. I WILL NOT BE FOOLED.
THESE DAMN FOXES ARE AFTER ME... DO THEY WANT TO EAT ME ALIVE OR SOMETHING...?

THAT YOU TIED A STRING AROUND THE FOX'S NECK...
THAT WAS A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL.
FOX... YOU MEAN THAT ONNA!?
HUH!?
DO YOU NOT REMEMBER? THE FOX FROM THIS MORNING...
AHR.

THEN TAKE HER HOME! JEEZ!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GIVE KYOKA-SAMA UP TO A LAME MALE LIKE YOU!?
WE HAVEN'T ACCEPTED YOU AS A GROOM JUST YET!
DON'T GET TOO COCKY KID!
16

I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, BUT...
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, OUSUKE-SAN, THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND TRADITIONAL, ABSOLUTE CUSTOM THAT HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN IN THE FOX CLAN.
WE CAN'T NULLIFY OR GO AGAINST THIS CUSTOM EITHER.
*COUGH*
THEN I'LL AT LEAST MAKE THIS CLEAR.

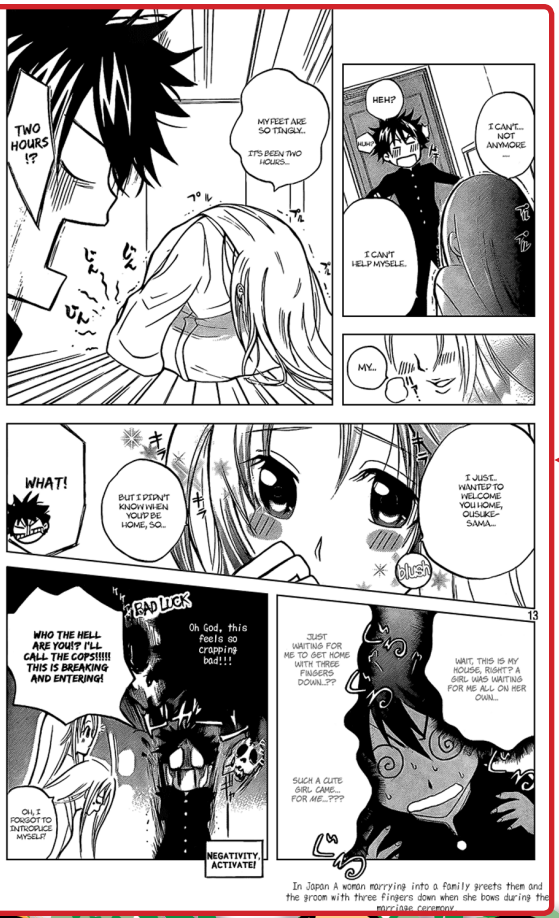
**Stop Reading Here**

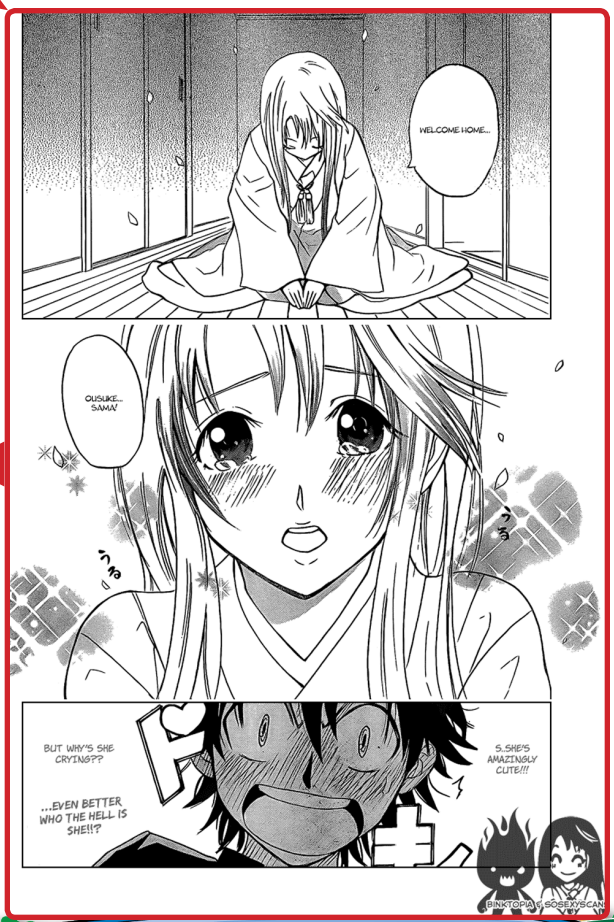
# Start Reading Here

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

DIDN'T SEE IT EITHER!!
SO I...
FEEDS PIDGEONS.
SEEEEE? NOBODY SAW IT!
NONONO!
HUUUUUH!?
I WOKE UP EARLY AND DIDN'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP TODAY EITHER!
YEAH! I DIDN'T SLEEP ENOUGH!
*REALLY WORKED UP*
EVERYBODY'S NORMAL! RIGHT AS RAIN!
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
HUH?
PHEW, I'M TIRED.
I THINK I LOST A FEW BRAIN CELLS THERE.


TWO HOURS !?
MY FEET ARE SO TINGLY..
IT'S BEEN TWO HOURS...
HEH?
HUH?
I CAN'T... NOT ANYMORE ...
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
MY..
WHAT!
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU'D BE HOME, SO..
I JUST WANTED TO WELCOME YOU HOME, OUSUKE-SAMA...
BLUSH
BAD LUCK
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!? I'LL CALL THE COPS!!!! THIS IS BREAKING AND ENTERING!
Oh God, this feels so crapping bad!!!
OH, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF!
NEGATIVITY ACTIVATE!
13
JUST WAITING FOR ME TO GET HOME WITH THREE FINGERS DOWN..??
SUCH A CUTE GIRL CAME... FOR ME...???
WAIT, THIS IS MY HOUSE, RIGHT? A GIRL WAS WAITING FOR ME ALL ON HER OWN...
In Japan A woman marrying into a family greets them and the groom with three fingers down when she bows during the marriage ceremony.

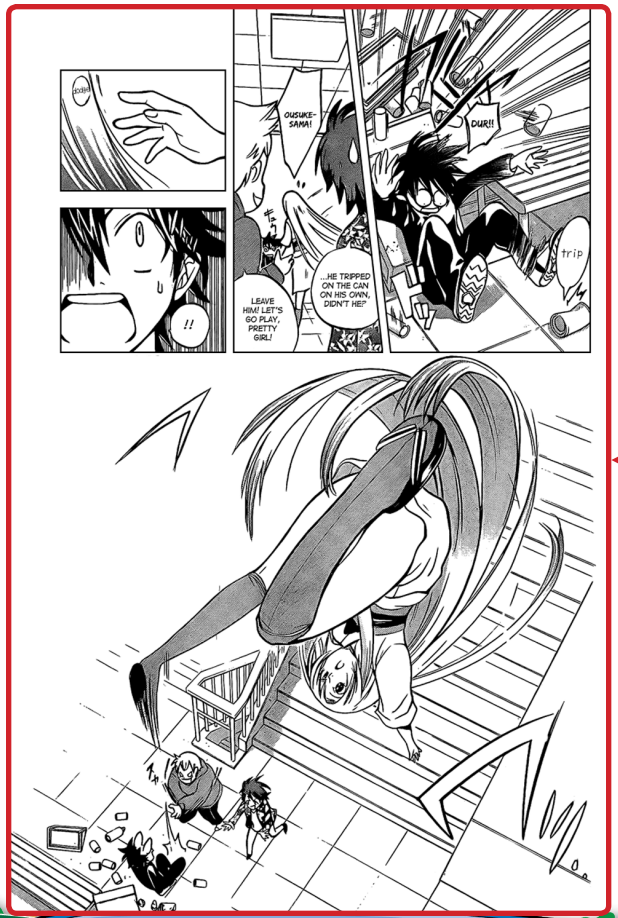


Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

twinkle twinkle
DON'T RIDE ON THE CART!!
DON'T ABUSE THE HALF-PRICE STICKERS!!!
STOP! STOP! IT'S GONNA FALL DOWN!
¥80
THE PEBBLES OF UNLUCKINESS ... THEY'RE PILING UP LIKE MOUNTAINS ...
THE...
WELL... I'M WEAK AGAINST THE TEMPTATION, FOR SOME REASON...
YOU'RE A DAWN FOX, THAT'S WHY.
WHY DO YOU DO SO MANY PRANKS...?
I'M SO UNLUCKY ...
MORE AND MORE UNLUCKY BY THE MINUTE ...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OUSUKE-SAMA?

THIS... THIS IS AMAZING!
WOW!
—BACK IN THE KITSUNE WORLD!
HIGH QUALITY ABURA-AGE BRINGING YOU A CELEB MOMENT...
THIS IS THE CELEB ABURA-AGE THAT'S ALL THE RAGE—
¥500
WHY YOU!!!
OUSUKE-SAMA...
NO!
THOSE AREN'T TOO GOOD FOR DINNER ANYWAY! WE CAN BUY LUNCHBOXES WITH THAT MONEY!
THIS IS THE HIGHEST QUALITY ABURA-AGE!
MADE WITH HARD TOFU MADE BY CELEB SOY CUT CELEB-LIKE INTO NEAT CELEB SQUARES AND PEEP-FRIED TWICE IN CELEB OIL...
PANTING
22
JUST ONE...
NO!
HOW THE HECK ARE WE GONNA AFFORD THIS!!



HEY...
THAT HURT...!
I... I'M SORRY..!
OUCH!
BUT...
ANOTHER BAD THING... WHY AM I ALWAYS LIKE THIS? WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
WANNA GO SOMEPLACE ELSE WITH US?
WHOA, YOU'RE SUPER-CUTE!
24
STAY OUTTA THE WAY!
WHAT? WHO THE HELL'RE YOU!?
IF I MAKE KYOKA-SAMA UNHAPPY IN ANY WAY, THE CURSE WILL BE UPON ME!
tsunemaro
I'M SORRY, SHE REALLY DOESN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE CITY, AND...
U...UMMMM ...

**Stop Reading Here**

BINKTOPIA & SOSEXYSCANS

# Start Reading Here

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

rumble rumble
I WON'T BE FOOLED! I WON'T BE FOOLED! EVEN IF YOU'RE SO CUTE...
ERK!
BUT THAT OUTFIT IS REALLY NOT...
I...IT'S ALL RIGHT.
OH! I'LL GO WITH YOU!
IF I LET HER STARVE, I'LL GET CURSED!
HA...HAHA... WELL, I'LL GO AND... BUY SOMETHING FOR YOU TO EAT THEN...
I STUPIDED THIS WORLD FOR A WHILE!
THAT I CAN TAKE CARE OF RIGHT AWAY!
WHOA!
BINKTOPIA & SOSEXYSCANS

ピタッ
WHOA!!
N...NO NO! WE DON'T DO THAT!
MARRIED COUPLES WALK LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
OH.
S.. SURE THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO!
"A WIFE SHOULD WALK BEHIND HER HUSBAND" IT WAS IN A BOOK!
AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO!
UM... HOW FAR SHOULD I WALK BEHIND YOU?
HUH? AS FAR AS I CAN GO?
GOD YOU HAVE GOOD EARS.
BINKTOPIA & SOSEXYSCANS

SHE'S AN ANGEL!
SHE'S CUTE!
CRAP! WE'RE REALLY STANDING OUT!
*pant pant*
SHE'S JUST A CUTE GIRL LIKE THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT; NOBODY WOULD EXPECT HER TO BE A FOX AT ALL...
20
HUH?
OUSUKE-SAMA...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT A CUTE GIRL LIKE HER WOULD COME TO MARRY ME OF ALL PEOPLE! IT'S WAY TOO FOREBODING WITH MY LUCK!

Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

Stop Reading Here

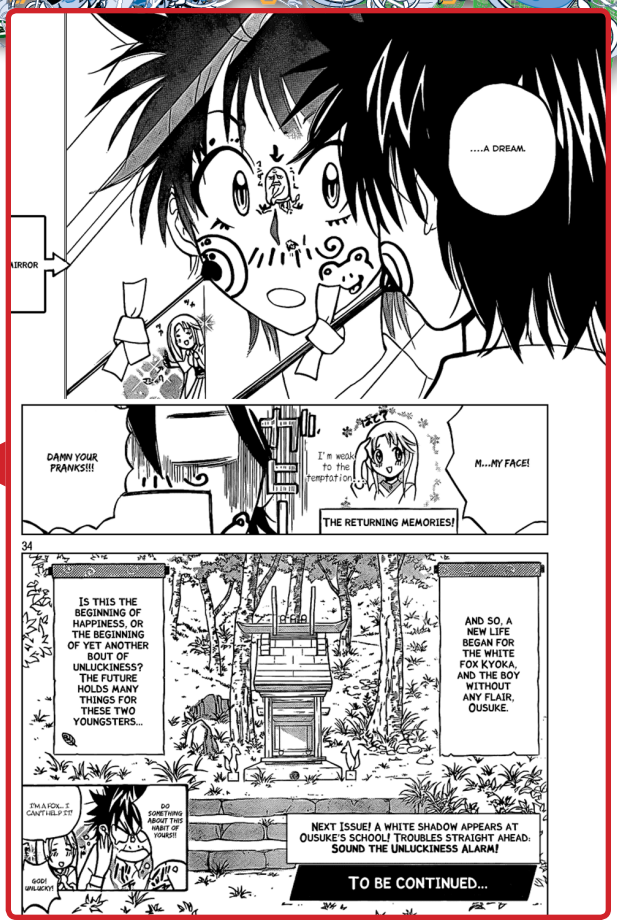
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OUSUKE-SAMA!
I...LET GO OF ME! THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M TROUBLING LIKE MAD!
UH
HEY... WHAT WERE WE JUST DOING?
MEMORIES WIPED!
MY ROOM IS SO TINY.
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE'S ONLY ONE BED... HOW ARE WE GOING TO SLEEP IN THIS TINY SPACE...?
URGH...

YOU WERE SO TIRED...
OUSUKE-SAMA...
OUSUKE-SAMA...
33
THAT GIRL'S NOT HERE EITHER... WHAT IF IT WAS ALL JUST A...
*YAWN* I FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT NOTICING...
THE NEXT MORNING.

NO MATTER HOW CUTE SHE IS SHE'S A FOX!
WAUGH! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO!?
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO END WITH ME SOULLESS IN THE MORNING WITHOUT A WINK OF SLEEP TO BOOT!
AND KYOKA IS IN THE SHOWER NOW...
IS SHE...? COULD SHE...?
OH GOD! I'M GOING TO BE CURSED BY FOXES AND LOSE ALL MY MONEY AND HAVE A NEVER-ENDING HUNGER AND... LOTS OF STUFF!
AND ON TOP OF THAT! WHAT IF I DON'T ACT LIKE SHE WANTS ME TO!? AM I GOING TO BE TURNED INTO SOMETHING AS A HEATHEN...?
THAT FELT SO GOOD!
OUSUKE-SAMA, WHY DON'T YOU GO...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT THIS RATE ANYWAY!
NOO!!

Start Reading Here
Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.
Kitsune no Yomeiri
SHE FLEW!?
SHE...
YOU HEATHEN!
I AM OUSUKE-SAMA'S WIFE! I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BE TOUCHED BY THE LIKES OF YOU!
AND YOUR AGGRESSION AND BRUTALITY TOWARDS OUSUKE-SAMA... SHALL NOT GO UNPUNISHED!
KYON!
...SO YOU REGRET NOTHING, AND WILL NOT REPENT YOUR CRIMES...?
THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO...
DO IT.
IT!? WHAT'S IT!?
...HEATHEN!? WHAT THE HELL!?
!!
WE'LL HURT YOU SOMETHING BAD IF YOU KEEP UP WITH THIS!
27
I DON'T NEED ANY GOOD THINGS TO HAPPEN. JUST LET ME LIVE A NORMAL, PEACEFUL LIFE...
MAY MY PENCHANT FOR BAD LUCK GO AWAY!
BUT WHY DO YOU GO SO FAR TO...
...THAT PRAYER...
BECAUSE I'M YOUR BRIDE, OUSUKE-SAMA!
I WANT TO BE OF USE TO YOU, OUSUKE-SAMA.
OH... CAN YOU TURN THESE GUYS BACK?
ALREADY?
!!
whine whine
BINKTOPIA & SOSEXYSCANS
IT'S PROPER, NOT TO MENTION NORMAL TO APOLOGIZE IF YOU DO SOMETHING BAD
MANNERS AND MORALS ARE THE SAME HERE AS WELL AS ON THE OTHER SIDE...
...BUT ISN'T THIS GOING TOO FAR?
...SMALL YIPPIE DOGS ORIGINATING FROM MEXICO, USED AS PETS FROM ANCIENT TIMES, AND TREMBLE WITH ADORABLE EYES...
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO INTO DETAIL!
THE DELINQUENTS TURNED INTO CHIHUAHUAS!
YOU CAN DO STUFF LIKE THIS TOO!?
28
SO I SHALL PROTECT YOUR NORMALITY, OUSUKE-SAMA.
AND, I PROMISED YOU, OUSUKE-SAMA.

A NEW STYLE OF FORCEFUL LOVE COMEDY!
CHAPTER 1: A GIRL LIKE THIS IS YOUR BRIDE!
TAKAGI SATO
PRESENTS:
A SCANLATION BY:
BINKTOPIA AND SOSEXYSCANS
きつねのよめいり
KITSUNE NO YOMEIRI
IF YOU MARRY A GIRL LIKE THIS, THE HOUSE AND TOWN WILL BE IN CHAOS!


....A DREAM.
MIRROR
DAMN YOUR PRANKS!!!
I'm weak to the temptation
M...MY FACE!
THE RETURNING MEMORIES!
34
IS THIS THE BEGINNING OF HAPPINESS, OR THE BEGINNING OF YET ANOTHER BOUT OF UNLUCKINESS? THE FUTURE HOLDS MANY THINGS FOR THESE TWO YOUNGSTERS...
AND SO, A NEW LIFE BEGAN FOR THE WHITE FOX KYOKA, AND THE BOY WITHOUT ANY FLAIR, OUSUKE.
I'M A FOX...I CAN'T HELP IT!
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HABIT OF YOURS!!
GOD! UNLUCKY!
NEXT ISSUE! A WHITE SHADOW APPEARS AT OUSUKE'S SCHOOL! TROUBLES STRAIGHT AHEAD: SOUND THE UNLUCKINESS ALARM!
TO BE CONTINUED...

Start Reading Here

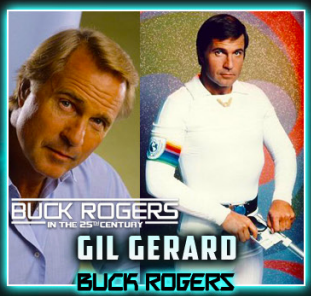
Start with top right and end with bottom left. Reading is done the same direction.

# Kitsune no Yomeiri

This concludes our preview of
**Kitsune no Yomeiri**

This manga is be available
at
**Kinokuniya Bookstores**
www.kinokuniya.com
or at
your local Japanese manga retailer.

SCI-FI ✦ FANTASY ✦ SCIENCE ✦ HORROR MOVIES ✦ COMICS ✦ TOYS ✦ GAMES

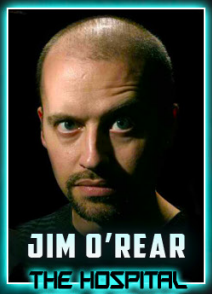


GIL GERARD
BUCK ROGERS

TATTOO BOB
TATTOO ARTIST

CLEVE HALL
MONSTER MAN

ARI LEHMAN
1ST JASON VOORHEES
FRIDAY THE 13TH


JIM O'REAR
THE HOSPITAL
FAT CHANCE

CAST OF DEEP SOUTH PARANORMAL:

TO THE FUTURE . ORG
DELOREAN TIME MACHINE

ERIKA ELENIAK
BAYWATCH & E.T.

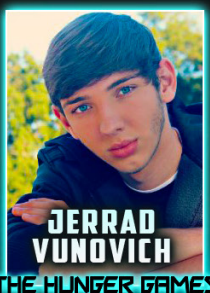
HEIDI JO MEDINA
MISS PENSACOLA USA

ERIN CAHILL
POWER RANGERS

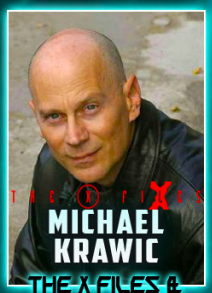
ROBIN SHELBY
GHOSTBUSTERS

MYST3RY, INC.
THE MYST3RY MACHINE

SONNY STRAIT
DRAGONBALL Z


JERRAD VUNOVICH
THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE

SCOTT TEPPERMAN
GHOST HUNTERS INTERNATIONAL

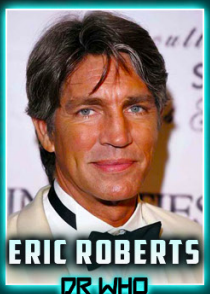

MICHAEL KRAWIC
THE X FILES & STAR TREK

SHADOW CLONE
GEEK PARTY

KARL C. RUHL
PENSACOLA COSTUMERS GUILD

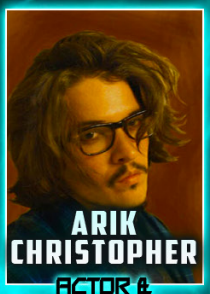
WAYNE DAVIS
EMERALD COAST SPACE SOCIETY

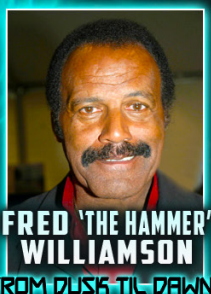
WITH SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOR
LOU FERRIGNO


ERIC ROBERTS
DR WHO
DARK KNIGHT

OLIVER ROBINS
POLTERGEIST

JASON FAUNT
POWER RANGERS


ARIK CHRISTOPHER
ACTOR & IMPRESSIONIST


FRED 'THE HAMMER' WILLIAMSON
FROM DUSK TIL DAWN
PRO FOOTBALL STAR

CHARLIE KIRCHOFF
IDW'S DR WHO ARTIST

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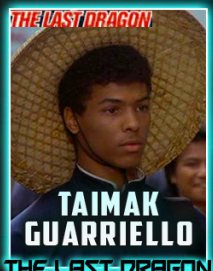
A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT MAKING STRIDES WITH BREAST CANCER

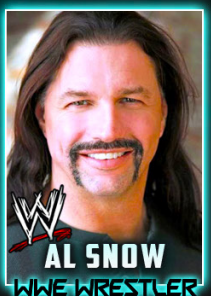
## AUGUST 9TH + 10TH



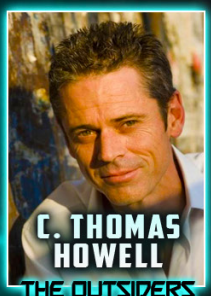
TAIMAK GUARRIELLO
THE LAST DRAGON

LOVE GUN (KISS TRIBUTE BAND)

ALTCON TARDIS



AL SNOW
WWE WRESTLER


C. THOMAS HOWELL
THE OUTSIDERS

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# ONE OK ROCK

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**Columbus, OH • 05.16-18.2014**

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